

Joy as HomeServe extends its partnership with club

FIRM TAKES STAND IN SADDLERS DEAL

Report by Joseph Masi

WALSALL fans will have the chance to watch their team from the newly named HomeServe Stand next season after the club extended its partnership with the firm.

The home assistance provider, which is based in the town, has sponsored Walsall's shirts for the past four years.

But they have now extended that partnership to sponsor the two-tiered stand which is seen by millions of drivers every year as they pass the Banks's Stadium on the M6.

Previously known as both the Gilbert Alsop Stand and lately the Tile Choice Stand, it has now been re-branded in the company's red colours and renamed the HomeServe Stand.

The investment is part of a five-year commitment by HomeServe in the club and is in addition to shirt sponsorship.

The new branding was unveiled at the Banks's Stadium on Monday, Saddlers manager Dean Keates, players Liam Roberts and Liam Kinsella and chief executive Stefan Gamble in attendance.

Ambitions

"The continued support of HomeServe – one of the region's biggest employers and an incredibly successful blue chip business – is fantastic for a club with the ambitions we have," said Mr Gamble.

"Walsall is home to both of us, and we're very proud of that, and it's investments like this that reflect our confidence that this club has a bright future ahead of it both on and off the pitch."

John Greaves, brand director at HomeServe, said the company has always been keen to extend its partnership with the club.

"This is another major milestone in the partnership with our home town club, and a very proud day for all of us at HomeServe," he said.

"HomeServe celebrates 25 years in Walsall this year and today we employ more than 1,100 people in the town, many of whom are passionate Saddlers fans. The partnership, which runs until the end of the 2021-22 season, will take HomeServe's support to eight years.

"That makes it the firm's longest ever community sponsorship commitment."

PRIDE OF LIONS AS CROWDS ENJOY ANNUAL FAIR



Daniela Longhi, Walsall's mayor Marco Longhi and Councillor Tim Wilson

THE annual Aldridge Lions fair motored past its 25th year with hundreds of people turning out for the family fun day.

Organised by the Aldridge and District Lions Club this year's event saw the fair pass a milestone.

Each year it helps individual local charities raise money by allowing them to set up stalls

free of charge and collect donations. President of the Aldridge Lions Diane Price said: "It went really well. We had about 40 charity stalls who were fundraising on the day.

"We don't have a final total raised as each charity did it themselves.

"The weather was not brilliant but we had hundreds – possibly in the high hundreds –



Helping things go with a swing are, from left, Harry Fry, Mike Barker, David Morgan, John Smith, Chris Baker and Diane Price



Mike Morris on the blood bikes stand at the annual event

of people. There were also fairground rides, dance schools and cheerleaders. It was really a great success for everyone."

The fair, which was held on Saturday, also had a variety of food stalls, a vintage bus, and a huge arena with events insidethroughout the day. Organisers are now gearing up for next year's event.

EDUCATION

Arts revamp to hit jobs at uni

UNIVERSITY staff are set to lose their jobs and courses axed as part of a radical cost-cutting restructure of an arts faculty.

A 'legacy of mismanagement' has been blamed for the plans to make senior staff redundant and scrap a number of courses at the University of Wolverhampton.

Bosses say changes to the Faculty of Arts – at both the Walsall and Wolverhampton campuses – are needed to slash costs for the upcoming academic year, with savings of £1.5 million expected.

But Dr Catherine Lamond, of the University and College Union's negotiating committee, said: "We think this has happened because of a legacy of mismanagement. We are worried the prospect of losing large numbers of staff will have a really damaging impact on the student experience."

Plans could see the faculty re-organised into three schools, which will be known as Wolverhampton School of Art, School of Humanities and School of Performing Arts.

A total of nine courses will be scrapped, while 11 will be suspended for the next year, due to low student numbers. It is understood more than 20 jobs are under threat, while alternative courses will be offered to students affected.

Employees are said to have been 'in tears', with a source claiming staff 'overwhelmingly voted' for a motion of no confidence in the faculty's management.

Vice-chancellor Professor Geoff Layer said: "In common with all universities, Wolverhampton has seen a decline in demand for courses in the arts. We remain hugely ambitious and will continue with our strategic projects and investments for growth."

PLANNING

Car park in line to be used for homes

A CAR park near Walsall Manor Hospital is set to be sold off for housing.

The car park, on Quayside Drive, has been declared surplus by the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, along with four office blocks. More than 30 homes could be built on the plots, under plans to transform the area and make use of land no longer needed by the trust.

INSIDE

School's guest is out of Africa



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Farewell to my golden husband, Reg



Memories – Anne Wrighton

THE devoted wife of a community stalwart has paid tribute to her 'golden' husband who has died aged 93.

Reginald Wrighton MBE died on May 29 – the day after the couple celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary.

Mr Wrighton spent much of his life dedicating to voluntary work, touching the lives of hundreds of people in Willenhall and beyond. In 1999, he was presented with an MBE for his services to the community. He had been living at Swan House, in Pools Lane, a month before his death. His loving wife, Anne, revealed Reginald's last words to her on their anniversary were: 'Anne, I am happy as long as you get well and I can come home to you and my garden.'

He was born in Chasetown, to parents Albert and Ruby on April 26, 1925. He met his sweetheart Anne at a dance at St Patrick's Church, in Walsall, in 1946, while he was on de-mob leave after military service during the Second World War.

They tied the knot on May 28, 1949 at St Andrew's Church, in Birchills, Walsall. They later moved to Willenhall.

Mrs Wrighton, who was awarded an OBE for her services to the judiciary in 1991, said: "You could say it was love at first sight."

"He was waiting there for me and asked me to dance. It was a happy evening. Our wedding was a beautiful day, with lots of friends and family

present." He joined Willenhall Council in 1951, before becoming chairman in 1963.

Anne, who is also 93, said: "I have so many memories of Reg, but when he was council chairman we met so many nice people in Willenhall."

Together Reginald and Anne had one son, Ralph. They have three grand-daughters Elizabeth, Hannah and Alice, and a great-grandson Nathan.

Mrs Wrighton added: "He was absolutely golden as a husband. He was very loving and always put me first." His funeral is at Holy Trinity Church, in Short Heath, today, Thursday, at 2.30pm. It is family flowers only, but donations can be made to St Giles' Hospice in Walsall.

Organ donor legacy leads to 18,000 transplants

A BLACK Country family's campaign to create the organ donor register has contributed to more than 18,000 transplants.

The Organ Donor Register was launched after a five-year campaign by the Cox family from Wolverhampton. Peter Cox, 24, had told his family about his wish to donate organs before his death in 1989 from a brain tumour but the family were surprised to find there was no register for potential donors.

The family lobbied the Government and the register was launched on October 6, 1994. NHS Blood and Transplant has thanked the Cox family for their campaign ahead of the 70th anniversary of the NHS next month. The Government is also considering plans to introduce an opt-out system instead of the current opt-in. Figures show since its launch, 6,600 people who were on the register have become donors after their deaths, leading to 18,000 transplants. There are now more than 25 million people on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Mr Cox's sister Christine, now 55, said: "He told us he wanted to donate his organs and it was up to us to make it happen. He was the most inspirational young man I have ever known."

Join at organ donation.nhs.uk

6,000 trees axed by Black Country councils

MORE than 6,000 trees have been lost in the Black Country over the past three years – including 901 cut down by Walsall Council.

The authority spent £269,000 taking down trees from 2014 to 2017.

A total of 6,359 have been felled by Black Country councils in the time, a Freedom of Information request has revealed.

Dudley cut down 3,227 trees, Sandwell 2,070 and Wolverhampton 161. Campaigners fear many others have also been lost through private fellings in the same period.

Councillor Louise Harrison, portfolio holder for clean and green said: "All local authorities have a duty to protect natural heritage and value the asset that is their tree stock – and Walsall is no exception to this. Trees are generally only felled when they are dead, dying diseased or dangerous, for example, by storm damage."

"However, in our countryside sites, trees may be felled as part of the long-term planned management of the sites to support the greatest diversity of plants and animals."

Trees can be protected by Tree Preservation Orders, which means approval is needed from a council to knock them down.

Those within conservation areas also require a planning application to remove them. More than 40 trees on land off Erdington Road in Aldridge are to be knocked down under plans for four large homes.

Walsall Council approved the proposal, but residents are unhappy over the prospect.

Mark Ryder, on behalf of community group Saving Aldridge Trees, said: "Councils have got expectations from the Government over the number of homes being built, and they get rewarded."

"This is happening to the detriment of the environment."

Prestigious Unicef award for school

TEACHERS and pupils at a school are celebrating after being given a prestigious award from Unicef.

Ryders Hayes School in Pel-sall has been awarded the Silver Rights Respecting School Award in recognition of its work putting pupils' voices at the heart of classroom life.

The award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school.

The Silver award is given to schools that make 'excellent progress' towards embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and curriculum.

Headteacher of Ryders Hayes School, Sally Miner, said: "This is an important day in the life of the school, allowing us to pause and reflect upon the positive impact that working towards the award has had on pupils and the school as a whole."

"It fits so well with our strong values."

Wendy Morton, the MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, was invited to present the award plaque and banner to the school. She said: "Congratulations to all the governors, staff, but above all to the pupils of Ryders Hayes School for receiving this prestigious Unicef UK Award."



With assistant head Cheryl Heaton are back left, Fraser, Louisa, Liam and Orla, front left, Finleigh, Catlyn and Katrina

Funeral date of ex-mayor Bill

SCORES of people are expected to turn out for the funeral of a former mayor and Black Country councillor.

Crowds are set to gather at St Bartholomew's Church in Wednesbury on Saturday for the funeral of former Sandwell mayor and Wednesbury councillor Bill Archer. The funeral is open to the public.

Mr Archer, who died aged 91, on June 2, was affectionately known as 'Mr Wednesbury'. During his 36-year career, he served as a Tory councillor.

A book of condolences is currently open at Wednesbury Library where many have left messages.

Earlier this month, his daughter, Sandwell councillor Elaine Costigan, paid tribute to her father who she described as an 'inspiration'.

Gig date for top guitarist Carlton

GUITAR icon Larry Carlton will perform for fans in the West Midlands this October. He has worked with the likes of Steely Dan, Joni Mitchell, Michael Jackson, Sammy Davis Jr and Quincy Jones.

Larry will perform at Birmingham Town Hall on October 2.

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Inadequate rating given to care home by watchdog

A CARE home in Wednesbury has been put in special measures following a damning inspection which found a catalogue of failings.

Ormidale House, in Wood Green Road, has now been ranked as 'inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The home's safety, effectiveness and leadership was given the bottom rating. Its responsiveness and care was also rated as 'requires improvement' by inspectors.

Inspectors said the visit was brought forward to March, which was earlier than planned, due to 'concerns we had received from a whistle blower'. The home was previously rated as 'requires improvement' in June 2017.

The report said: "Prior to our inspection we received concerns from an anonymous whistle blower. The concerns they had raised were allegations of physical and emotional abuse. We immediately shared these concerns with the local authority. We have continued to share information with the local authority during this time, to ensure people were safe in the home."

"We found that no robust measures were in place to mitigate potential risk."

A spokesman for Ormidale House said: "We are making improvements to the home. There were no findings in relation to the concerns raised by a staff member."

Students show off their designs

FASHION students will showcase their designs to the public when they stage their annual catwalk show.

The Wisemore Campus atrium at Walsall College will be transformed for tomorrow's show, which will be an artistic collaboration between fashion, hair and beauty, performing arts, dance and music students.

During the show, a range of collections the fashion students have worked on throughout the year will be unveiled, with themes including Victorian and vintage chic, Tim Burton and Fantastic Beasts.

Doors will open at 7pm and the show will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each, from the Graduate Academy of Hair and Beauty salon or by calling 01922 688569.

Car plates thefts

NUMBER plates have been stolen from cars near Walsall.

Police said there had been incidents in the Streetly area over recent days and have advised drivers to use protective screws.

Thumbs up for statue of Sir Jack



The Sir Jack statue is unveiled

LEGENDARY former Wolves owner Sir Jack Hayward returned 'home' as a 10ft statue was unveiled outside his beloved Molineux – on what would have been his 95th birthday.

Family, friends, ex-Wolves players and staff attended a ceremony outside the stadium, where the £250,000 bronze statue was revealed. It depicts Sir Jack – who died in 2015 aged 91 – in his iconic 'thumbs up' pose.

There was warm applause from VIPs and hundreds of fans as the statue was unveiled following speeches from his son Jonathan and

Wolves managing director Laurie Dalrymple. It is positioned next to the stand that bears Sir Jack's name.

Long-time companion Patti Bloom said: "It's been emotional. He's back where he's meant to be. He never really left – all his life he never really left, he was always a home-town boy."

"He would have absolutely loved having it. He'd also love it that Wolves are back in the Premier League."

Sir Jack OBE joins two of his heroes Billy Wright and Stan Cullis, who also have statues outside the stadium. Like the Sir Jack statue, they were

produced by renowned sculptor James Butler who attended the big reveal.

Goalscoring legends Steve Bull and John Richards, club captain Danny Batth, former chief executive Jez Moxey and members of the 2003 play-off final winning team Paul Butler and Lee Naylor were also there.

Son Jonathan Hayward, who was also club chairman in the 1990s, thanked fans for the 'love and support' they had shown his father. "Perhaps in the future when you walk past the statue you can give him the thumbs up," he added.

Town centre's flagship M&S to shut in August

THE town centre is reeling from news that the flagship Marks & Spencer store will close its doors for the last time on August 11.

The move comes despite efforts from council leaders to try and save the department store after 84 years in the town centre.

Nearly 100 shop staff, many of whom have worked at the store for decades, face redundancy.

Andy Barber, head of region for the West Midlands at Marks & Spencer, said: "Proposing to close the store was a difficult decision."

"Over the past few weeks we've been consulting with our colleagues and, following this rigorous process, the decision has been made to close the store on Saturday, August 11."

The Walsall branch has been a mainstay for the town's shoppers since it opened in Park Street on June 1, 1934. The branch became part of the Saddlers Centre in 1980.

Walsall Council bosses had hoped to persuade M&S bosses to stay.

The authority took out a £13.8 million loan, described as high-risk, to buy the Saddlers Centre in a controversial move last year, but the leadership has now changed.

New council leader Mike Bird had opposed the decision by the previous Labour administration to buy the struggling centre.

Reacting to the latest news, he said: "We have got a meeting with them on June 22 (tomorrow)."

"I have emailed them and said I hope, even at this late stage, we might be able to change their mind. Marks & Spencer is an institution in Walsall, it has been here for 85 years this year. I understand from a commercial aspect they have got to make a profit."

The closure was first proposed a month ago, as part of a nationwide cull by the department store chain. Marks & Spencer says it will close more than 100 stores by 2022 as it accelerates a transformation programme that will see thousands of jobs put at risk.

The closures will affect its clothing and home stores, which have under-performed for several years.

Bishop's 6,000-mile trip to school



Bishop Moses visits Blue Coat School, Walsall, to say thank you for helping Kenyan youngsters

PUPILS welcomed an African bishop from more than 6,000 miles away for a special visit.

Bishop Moses Nthukah met with children and teachers at Blue Coat Church of England Junior and Infant School in Walsall, where he was given an exclusive tour and took part in a Q&A with the school's council. The Anglican Bishop was visiting from the Njirange district in Kenya, a poor area that has suffered the ravages of drought in the past.

To help support Bishop Moses and his people, the school has

been fundraising to help improve their lives for decades as part of the Njirange in Kenya – raising more than £10,000 in the process.

And to say thank you to the school, he made the trip over for the first time since the late 1990s – remarking how much the school had changed over the years.

"I visited to meet schools and the churches that have been supporting the needy school, community and church in Njirange, Kenya, for the last 22 years," he said. "I have visited this school before, I think in 1999."

"The school was still the way it is but I can see a lot of new things like new classrooms and computers. It has changed but is very good. I really enjoyed myself and learnt a lot from the pupils. They expressed themselves very well and took me around the school."

The visit, which took place on Friday, began with a celebration assembly before he was given a tour of the Springhill Road school by pupils.

Following the trip, he visited Short Heath Junior School in Wilehall in the afternoon.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flooding forces closure of centre

A FLOOD-damaged community centre has been forced to close for nearly three months leaving groups with nowhere to go. Great Wyrley Community Centre will be shut for eight to 10 weeks for repairs after it was deemed too dangerous to be used.

Chairman of the parish council Helen Snape said insurance assessors had revealed the damage at the centre in Landywood Lane was far worse than anyone first thought after the storms last month. She said: "It's a nightmare. We've been refurbishing the centre over the last 12 months and some of the flooring had only gone down a few weeks before."

Shock closure pub up for demolition

A TROUBLED former pub could be demolished under new plans.

Plans have been submitted to Sandwell Council to demolish the vacant Red Admiral in Great Barr, which closed suddenly nearly two years ago.

Police had been called to the pub 35 times between 2007 and 2016 when it closed its doors.

It was later revealed the pub, in Gorse Farm Road, was sold for around half a million pounds after closing without warning.

The plans do not reveal any details about the future plans of the site.

Inspirational art contest launched

AN inspirational art competition, which has been running for 13 years has been launched again.

The 2018 Dawn Jones Art Prize competition encourages people to create inspiring artwork in line with the theme: #Thisisme.

The competition was set up by Maureen Jones in memory of her daughter, Dawn Jones, who tragically committed suicide in 2005 at the age of 25 following a long battle with depression.

See www.dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize for details.

Guard cut by knife used by shoplifter

A SUPERMARKET security guard was left injured after being cut by a knife-wielding shoplifter.

Two shoplifters stole a large knife and started to load a trolley with alcohol at Asda in Old Horns Crescent, Great Barr last Wednesday.

The pair escaped through a fire exit and got into a silver Vauxhall Corsa which drove off towards Aldridge Road. West Midlands Police are now appealing for information.

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COUNTY NEWS

Jab reminder to fend off cat virus

PET owners are being urged to protect their feline friends from a fatal virus. The RSPCA has issued a plea to residents to get their cats vaccinated against feline panleukopenia.

It comes after an outbreak of the fatal disease across the region last summer, which saw 40 cats treated at Birmingham's Newbrook Animal Hospital.

Joanna Szkutnicki, senior clinician at the hospital, said: "Feline panleukopenia is a severe disease that most often proves fatal. Most cats contract it from a contaminated environment via infected faeces." Symptoms can include vomiting and diarrhoea.

Fresh signs of life in housing market

THE housing market is showing renewed signs of life in the West Midlands, improving for the first time in three years, with more homes going up for sale.

A lack of supply of homes on the local market has been holding it back but the latest report from chartered surveyors found most were seeing that situation improve. As a result the number of sales has gone up in May as the market turns positive for the first time since September 2015.

And demand from buyers has risen for the first time this year, according to the RICS UK Residential Market Survey for the West Midlands.

Hello Culture, as it returns to Brum

ANNUAL digital symposium Hello Culture returns to Birmingham City University tomorrow, Friday.

The conference will explore experimentation in digital technology providing artists and arts organisations access to new thinking, ideas, forms of practice and artistic experimentation and expression.

It is free to attend, but spaces are limited. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance on the Hello Culture website.

RSPCA focusing on animals and humans

YOUNGSTERS are being asked to take photos showing the many ways in which humans can impact animals for a new category of the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2018.

For the first time, a category exploring 'The Human Impact on Animals' will be included for under 19s.

The closing date is 4pm on August 17. Entrants can submit their images online at: www.rspca.org.uk/ypa/18

Pregnant drug smuggler's jail term cut

A JUDGE described a pregnant mother who took heroin into a prison as a 'decent woman' - before jailing her for 20 months.

Natalie Severn then had her sentence cut, to 15 months, on appeal.

Severn, aged 31, admitted taking 6.92 grams of heroin into Oakwood Prison at Featherstone, near Wolverhampton. She gave the drugs, worth at least £280, to her boyfriend, who

was in custody, at the prison in June last year.

Appearing at Stafford Crown Court in April, Severn, of Cromwell Street in Coventry, was jailed by His Honour Judge John Gosling. He described her as a 'decent woman', but said she had committed 'a really serious crime'.

Severn claimed to have been contacted by an unknown man and told her partner was in debt and asked to

take the package into the prison.

She feared for her and for her boyfriend's safety if she did not comply.

This week, at London's Appeal Court, the case was heard again as lawyers for Severn argued that her punishment was too harsh.

They pointed to her previous good character, being pregnant with a baby due in October and having a three-year-old child. She is 'finding it

difficult' in custody with 'considerable anxiety for her unborn child', the court was told.

Taking drugs into prison is 'an offence of exceptional gravity' meriting immediate imprisonment', said Sir Brian Leveson, who was sitting with two other judges.

But he added: "Although a custodial sentence was inevitable, it need not have been as long as 20 months."

Family living in fear after machete attack

A MACHETE-wielding thug smashed the windows of two cars belonging to a family, who say they are now living in fear.

Teacher Sarah Hunt-Squires aged 51, and veteran Sean Squires aged 53 were asleep in their home in Moncrieffe Street, Walsall, last Wednesday, when their car windows were smashed using bricks and a machete.

It is the second time the family, along with their 19-year-old daughter Paige Hunt, have been targeted in six weeks, when bricks were thrown through their front window in May.

She said: "We were in bed when we heard a loud bang and we went running downstairs to find the cars were smashed. It was horrendous, I was shocked when I looked at the CCTV.

"It was the fact that he pulled out a machete. When I realised what it was I felt sick to my stomach. My husband broke down and he is ex-forces so he has seen the worst. We stayed up for nights to see if it would happen again.

"It could have been something much worse and I feel targeted. I am on blood bike duty later and my daughter has to go to work but I do not want to walk the streets knowing people have machetes. If they can get a machete what else can they get hold of? I am absolutely petrified, we fear they are going to kill us."

The windcreens on both cars are smashed while their silver Proton Satria's back window has been slashed and a window on their Renault Scenic has been smashed. The incident was caught on CCTV and police are inves-

By Charlotte Callar

tigating. Mrs Hunt-Squires has lived there for 21 years and Mr Squires moved in four years ago when they got married and they installed CCTV three years ago but they want to move following the incidents.

He said: "They had a 1.5ft machete. What is it going to take to stop this? Are they going to stab me or stab my wife? We are going to have to move.

"I served this country and this is how I get treated. I am broken from this. I cannot go to work today. This is just the damage left behind from one machete. It is horrible to think that someone here in the Chuckery has something like that."

A police spokeswoman said: "Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 giving crime reference 20WS/131376Q/18."

The incident took place in a week a campaign by the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, to review the sale of knives, gathered momentum. Almost 5,000 have signed a petition in support of the campaign.

To sign it, visit www.change.org/p/home-secretary-sajid-javid-ban-the-sale-of-deadly-knives



Sarah Hunt-Squires aged 51, and her husband Sean Squires, 53, with the damaged car



A CCTV image of the attack which took place in Moncrieffe Street, in the early hours

£40k set to be spent on city war memorials

TWO Black Country war memorials are to be restored to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Wolverhampton Council's cabinet resources panel was this week expected to approve a £40,000 rebuild and repair of Penn Fields and Tettenhall's memorials.

The cash will be used to restore the memorials which have suffered from decay and vandalism.

Council officers are asking the city council to approve the plan using cash from the War Memorials Trust and contributions raised by local community groups, the Bradmore War Memorial Fund and Tettenhall War Memorial Committee.

Recommending the proposal, council officers state: "To mark the centenary of the First World War, two local resident groups are proposing to restore their local war memorials in Church Road, Penn Fields, and in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels in Tettenhall."

The Penn Fields monument is within ornamental gardens in Church Road, opposite St Philip's Church, and depicts an infantryman. Parts of the statue are missing and movement in the plinth is causing damage to stonework.

The Tettenhall war memorial is in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels, and is a red sandstone cross and shaft mounted on a plinth.

In addition to repairing the cross, it's intended to steam clean the memorial and to replace stone paving around the memorial, paid for with contributions raised by the Tettenhall War Memorial Committee.

Firm strikes gold for safety record

A BLACK Country-based home assistance provider has received an award for occupational health and safety.

HomeServe, which has its offices in Walsall, received a 'gold medal' from safety charity Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

The RoSPA Gold Medal award is handed out to businesses that achieve five or more consecutive 'gold' ratings from the accidents and safety body.

HomeServe has secured an eighth consecutive gold and will be presented with the award at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole hotel on July 4.

Bob Kerr, HomeServe's director of health, safety and the environment, said: "We're delighted to retain our place among the very best performing UK businesses when it comes to occupational health and safety."

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Sir Steve's backing on campaign by Specsavers

AN opticians is raising awareness of the risks of sight loss caused by diabetes.

Specsavers in Brownhills are taking part in Diabetes Week, as, according to research, 5,350 people across Walsall are at risk of losing their sight due to the disease.

Olympic rower Sir Steve Redgrave CBE is joining forces with the opticians and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) to warn of the risks of blindness linked to the condition.

The campaign follows Sir Steve admitting that losing his sight is one of his biggest worries – as his diabetes means he is up to 20 times more likely to lose his sight than those without the condition.

Sir Steve said: “Going blind is, unfortunately, a very real threat for me. Until I was diagnosed with the condition, I was totally unaware of its implications on sight and having lived with diabetes for more than 20 years now.

“It’s great to see the Specsavers store in Brownhills raising awareness. Since being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, I’ve learnt how important it is to get regular eye checks to detect signs of diabetic retinopathy, which can cause blindness. The eyes are a window to general health so visiting your optician should be part of your routine for staying fit and healthy.”

BGT finalist due in comedy show

A SECOND Britain’s Got Talent contestant from the latest season will star in a new comedy event.

This year’s talent show semi-finalist, Mandy Mudén will be performing at The Aldridge Comedy Social Club on October 24. The show will also feature Andrew McBurney and MC Maureen Younger.



Mandy Mudén

It comes after the launch of the event which has been postponed to September due to comedian Nick Page’s availability. It will now take place on September 19 at Aldridge Social Club, and tickets for the original date can be used on the night, or refunded at the club.

Nick will be joined on the evening by Lovdev Barpaga, Charmian Hughes and Birmingham-based MC Paul Savage. Tickets are priced at £8 are available from Aldridge Social Club on the High Street or via the box office on 01922 456 742.

Apprentices steal show at awards night



Left, Laura Thacker and Marc Edwards

WALSALL apprentices stole the show at this year’s In-Comm Training Awards, with local people securing three of the main prizes.

Integrated Water Services’ Laura Thacker was named as the ‘Most Improved Learner of the Year’ having overcome several setbacks to develop her skills and excel in her apprenticeship, whilst Marc Edwards of Walsall Pressings secured the Learner of the Year – Supervisory Management.

The latter impressed an industry-led judging panel with the quality of his work and the way he is mentoring other members of the team to undertake their own qualifications.

They were joined on stage by Castings PLC’s Keith Collins whose efforts to promote apprenticeships as the solution for his company’s skills requirements won him the ‘Ambassador of the Year’.

Bekki Phillips, joint Managing Director at In-Comm Training, commented: “There has been a lot of media debate about the effectiveness of the ‘Apprenticeship Levy’, but one thing that is not in question is the important role we all play in developing

the engineers of the future. Apprenticeships offer a fantastic way for companies to develop their own staff and for young people to become competent craft and technical engineers by being exposed to all levels of education and a host of practical scenarios.

“If they go all the way to degree level through this route, they’ll also save £100,000 on average when compared to people going to university.

“Walsall appears to be a hotbed of vocational talent, with Laura, Keith and Marc all fantastic ambassadors for engineering.”

New war on fly-tipping pledged by council chiefs

A COUNCIL is plotting a crackdown on fly-tipping hotspots after giant piles of rubbish were dumped near to a canal for the second time in 10 days.

Fridges, freezers, a bed, fence panels and garden waste were among the items strewn across Rayboulds Bridge off Green Lane, Walsall, at the end of May.

But after Walsall Council had cleared the mess fly-tippers struck again just a few days later. This time the Tory-run authority’s street cleansing crew removed the debris in less than an hour.

Council leader Mike Bird said the speed of the operation was ‘the way it is going to be’ under a new regime aimed at stamping out the scourge of fly-tipping across the borough.

“We are showing that we are staying true to our election pledges and clamping down on fly-tipping. It is a top priority for us,” said Mr Bird, who took over as council leader following the local elections in May.

Prosecution

“This mess cost £700 to clear. It puts a strain on taxpayers and council finances and we simply will not tolerate it any longer.”

Mr Bird says he believes extending access to tips in the borough could help to reduce fly tipping. After the last incident at Rayboulds Bridge councillors requested a full report on fly-tipping and what could be done to combat it.

Fly-tipping incidents across the borough are generally investigated by operatives from the council’s Clean and Green team.

In recent years fly-tipping ‘hotspots’ have become a regular sight in the Black Country, with reduced hours at tips leading to an increase in the amount of rubbish dumped on the streets.

Walsall saw 4,565 incidents of fly-tipping last year, costing £391,372 to clean up.

There were 2,653 incidents in Wolverhampton and a clean-up bill of £129,782, while Dudley had 1,069 incidents, costing of £63,295 to clear away. Sandwell was worst hit with 5,288 incidents. There taxpayers had to cough up £328,764 in clean-up bills for 2016/17.

It’s Sean’s show at the Arboretum



Ready for the Teethfest festival at Walsall Arboretum in July is organiser and performer Sean Flood

AN actor is organising his latest music festival at Walsall Arboretum. Sean Flood, who has appeared in various TV shows including Peaky Blinders, is preparing for the event, which takes place on July 7 at Walsall Arboretum.

The festival, called Teethfest 18, has become an annual occasion with his own group Sean Flood & The Doctor Teeth Band performing each year.

The band play mainly original songs written by Sean but covers of ‘60s and ‘70s classics from the likes of The Beatles, The Kinks and The Doors also feature.

It will be the third event organised by Sean, who is originally from West Bromwich but now lives in Walsall.

The 52-year-old said: “We’ve got local bands from the area performing – a mixture of guitar bands of all ages. There will be a

bar and barbecue food – it’s a good little event. It’s the third year we’ve done the festival now and just thought it would be nice to put some bands on from the local area. It’s growing and growing and we’re expecting quite a lot of people to turn up.”

The free event, which starts at noon and finishes at 6pm – with the Sean Flood & The Doctor Teeth Band headlining, is suitable for all the family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for residents to air their views

RESIDENTS are invited to an event in Darlaston about how to improve the area. The event, organised in part by West Midlands Police, is at All Saints Church on the Walsall Road on Tuesday between 6pm and 9pm.

Natasha Love, a PCSO based in Darlaston, said: “Everyone is welcome. If you have an idea and think it will benefit the Darlaston community come along, talk about it, and apply for the funding. If you live in the Darlaston, Moxley, Rough Hay, Bentley areas, RSVP your spot now.”

To register for the event email jody.martin@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or call 0738 709 7559.

Festival stronger with Steel show

COMEDIAN and writer Mark Steel is performing in the West Midlands next month. The stand-up comedian has appeared on the likes of QI, Mock the Week, Have I Got News For You and Question Time.

He is due at Lichfield Festival on Saturday, July 14. As well as his TV appearances, Steel also writes a column for The Independent and is a popular voice on radio. He has presented Mark Steel’s in Town on BBC Radio 4 since 2009.

For details call 01543 412121 or visit www.lichfieldfestival.org.

Theme park day draws in 8,000

DRAYTON Manor Park welcomed more than 8,000 visitors as part of its annual Big Day Out to host underprivileged children. The park teamed up with KidsOut charity and Rotary International to host the day.

Colin Bryan, park chairman, said: “The KidsOut relationship is an initiative that’s so close to the Bryan family heart as it initially began with my father, George Bryan, OBE, the founder of Drayton Manor. It is simply priceless to see these children smile as some of them experience the thrill of a rollercoaster for the first time.”

Ramblers head out to country park

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Hartshill Hayes Country Park, near Atherstone for a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday.

This is an undulating walk on canal, through woodlands, and farmland with views over Leicestershire.

Non-members are always welcome. More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 07745 046 853. For details on the group, log onto www.walsallramblers.org.uk.

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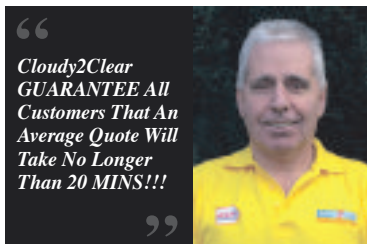
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Gunners' aid cash is a kick in the teeth

AS our Government prepares to hand over £62 million this year in aid to Rwanda, the country's dictator Paul Kagame has decided to return the favour by giving half of it back to his favourite football team, Arsenal.

Mr Kwagame, whose citizens typically live on about £1 a day, has decided the best way to improve the lot of his people is to sponsor the Gunners to the tune of £10m a year for the next three years.

And in return, the new Arsenal kit will have the logo Visit Rwanda emblazoned across the chest.

And Paul and his mates will be able to make full use of a hospitality box at Arsenal home games. What's not to like?

On hearing that news, my first thought was 'why don't we ever give overseas aid to dictators who support Aston Villa?' Boy, judging from the events of the past couple of weeks, the Claret and Blue Army could certainly use £30m.

And giving money to Villa would certainly be closer to the ideal of helping the less fortunate in the world than handing it over to the billionaires of north London.

But joking apart, how can this be a good use of taxpayers' money, at least for non-Arsenal supporting taxpayers?

Now I'm not one of the naysayers who harrumphs 'charity begins at home' every time the subject of international aid is mentioned. I do believe that as long as there is starvation in the world, that those of us who are fortunate to find ourselves among the richest one per cent of the world have a responsibility to do what we can to help.

And also, from a purely pragmatic point of view, if people in the world's poorest countries have access to decent food and medicine, they are less likely to stow-away in the back of lorries and end up living on the streets of Britain.

What is stupid, though, is the arbitrary target of 0.7 per of GDP set by David Cameron, which determines that a fixed amount of money has to be handed over to developing countries, irrespective of what the actual need is.

Some years there will be an argument for spending more than 0.7 per cent of GDP, some years we probably need to spend less.

But when the need to give away taxpayers' money just to meet a politically correct target results in millions being indirectly donated to a moneybags football team from north London, it is not only wasteful and immoral – it is also a spectacular own goal.

Historic summit with leader playing his Trump card



Poldark's shirtless scene gets people talking, or does it? Answers on a postcard...



Trump gets tough with G7 leaders, and then cosies up with Kim Jong-Un in North Korea



Graduates to become a detective in three months? Sherlock didn't need university

Get it off your chest as Poldark returns

"SHIRTLESS Poldark Gets Everyone Talking" (BBC headline). Not in this column, it doesn't.

LIFE among Guardian readers is as fraught as ever. One writes to an agony aunt "My girlfriend wants a polysexual relationship. I don't. What should we do?" Isn't it obvious? Shoot the parrot.

A READER, lamenting the closure of local banks, wonders whether they might be able to keep a few more branches open if only they reduced the "obscene" bonuses paid to some bank bosses. Nice idea but that would mean banks treating their customers as though they valued them. Under the present arrangements the banks regard customers as numbers while spending millions of pounds on TV adverts pretending that they really, really value us. Anyone else sick to death of black horses?

WE are on holiday this week in Beer, Devon, and came upon a strange incident down the coast in Seaton where a dog, chained outside a shop, managed to get a foot caught in its lead and was yelping for help. What would you do? While you're mentally rehearsing your own heroism, I should point out that this agitated dog was a huge English bull terrier with jaws like T-rex. Massive respect to the old chap who, knowing nothing about this beast, coolly stepped forward to untangle it, and promptly got a good licking as the terrier's new best friend, while the rest of us dithered.

I ONCE worked on a newspaper founded in

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



1805 and I spent hours poring through old editions. One advert, from 1806, was headed "For the inspection of the curious." It described an exhibition of gallstones, some tiny and others huge, recently extracted from the guts of a cow. Back in 1805 people actually paid to see such things. How laughable, how primitive and how much we have changed. You think? This week one news website was offering, for the inspection of the curious: "Watch a huge Galapagos tortoise eat a cactus at San Diego Zoo." We don't change that much. I bet today's internet generation would pack the town square to ogle a public execution.

TALKING of which, in the entire history of English courts, were felons ever reprieved on the gallows and allowed to walk away scot-free, as seen in Poldark? Having been spared the most terrible punishment of death by hanging, the sentence would surely be commuted to the second-worst punishment, being forced to be Australians.

WE are told that Trump's sharp words after the G7 were intended to make him look tough before the North Korea talks. If so, it was a high-risk strategy. What if Angela Merkel had pinched his nose and made him cry?

MORE mysteries of the digital age. Friends came to visit us down here in Devon and texted us from Honiton, just eight miles up the road. They got here before their text arrived.

ANOTHER digital mystery. Having accidentally dunked my camera in Loch Lomond last month, I am using another old one which takes photos, displays them briefly but then seemed to consume them without trace. Turns out it has been filing them away in the section of its memory dated 2012, possibly because Beer, Devon in 2018 is almost identical to Beer, Devon in 2012. Or in 1812 for that matter.

AND before the techies among you rush to say it is possible to save a camera after it has been soaked, it really isn't. There may be online accounts of cameras being brought back to life by total immersion in dried rice, by the extremely quick-thinking and well-prepared but, as a rule, the battery is knackered one nano-second after hitting the water and the electronics a nano-second later. You can try the dried-rice remedy on your dripping camera but the misted lenses, like the eyes of a dying animal, tell the true story. The kindest thing is to bin it.

MINISTERS have announced a new project to turn graduates into detectives in just three months. As long as that? How much training does it take to say over the phone: "We can't get anyone there until Wednesday. Have you contacted Victim Support? Here's your crime number..." It's not all Sherlock.

TALKING POINT



Waiters' term takes on guise of insincerity

IF there is one thing guaranteed to make a visit to a restaurant less enjoyable these days it is the way that waiting staff seem to think it is essential to refer to customers as 'guys'. I am not glad to be guy (apologies to Tom Robinson), in fact the term is starting to get on my pip.

During a meal recently my wife and I were referred to repeatedly as 'guys'. What would you like to drink guys? Are you ready to order guys? Is everything OK guys? Can we take your plates guys? Would you like to see the sweet menu guys?

I accept that their use of the term was intended in a friendly manner and that they had probably been told to use it by their boss because it is widely considered to be informal and gender neutral.

I didn't expect for us to be called sir or madam (well, I might if it was the Ritz) but the over use of the term becomes grating especially when there is no need to add 'guys' to any of the above sentences anyway.

It's not that I think it is a sexist term, I doubt it is ever used to make females feel ill at ease and I think it far more likely a group of women would take issue with being addressed as 'dolls' or 'gals'.

It is just so American, a term that one might expect in a US burger joint.

Frankly, I would even prefer 'bab', 'chick' or 'cocker' to 'guys', at least that would make me laugh and has a certain Black Country charm.

Like much American slang, the word guy has made a transatlantic journey and come back with a different meaning. Britain and America are, after all, two nations divided by a common language (an observation first attributed to George Bernard Shaw).

The original word does go back to Guy Fawkes, the infamous gunpowder plotter.

It found use in the feverish paranoid atmosphere of 17th century Britain when the new Protestant establishment feared Roman Catholics backed by France and Spain were plotting against them. Back then a group of 'guys' were shady looking characters with dubious, probably criminal, intent. In American it became a colloquial phrase with more positive connotations, meaning a group of friends, colleagues or team-mates.

The problem is that 'guys' is such a lazy, hollow cliché of a word that is smacks of insincerity even when the intention is to be welcoming, warm and friendly.

So please, hard-working waiting staff everywhere, drop the 'guys'... and don't get me started on 'folks'.

LEON BURAKOWSKI



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Plastic not always fantastic

AN expression that I first heard as a child some 70 years ago, but I never hear today, is 'don't put all your eggs in one basket'.

And this is precisely what we are doing when we use a piece of plastic to carry out all our financial transactions on the high street, and if for some reason the system goes 'down', as it did recently with Visa, chaos inevitably results.

I personally despair when I see someone, usually a young person, pay £1.25 for a sandwich using a card. Not too long ago one saw signs in shops saying 'cards not ac-

cepted for transactions under £5', but those appear to have now disappeared.

Wouldn't it just be common sense to make sure that you always have cash in your purse or pocket, just in case? You would then be able to at least pay for those essential items. Alas, I suspect that the majority of those who were hit by the Visa breakdown will be shopping this week without a coin in their purse or pocket, the attitude being surely it can't happen again? Well, it can, and it will.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

Soon we'll all speak American

ONE of the mildly naughty pleasures of life is watching out for somebody moaning about misuse of language plunging headlong into his own trap. This, I'm afraid, CK Millward manages, when complaining about Americanisms and naming one of the glories of British English as the 'King James Version' of the Bible. That's a relatively recent import for what we used to call the Authorised Version.

Some Americanisms are actually examples of linguistic conservatism, with US English having retained usages which are defunct or archaic in Britain. Of the great authors mentioned by Millward, at least two would have been familiar with 'fall' being used instead of autumn. 'Ouster' and 'apparel' are other examples of words now archaic in Britain but still in common use in the USA.

What is clear is that American English is likely to remain the dominant form of the language.

ALAN T HARRISON
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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John Stonehouse and Thorpe remembered

WITH all the hype relating to A Very English Scandal on BBC One, relating to the murder plot trial of Jeremy Thorpe and associates in 1979, made me think of a reply I received from him during the early 2000s, when I was researching the life of the infamous Wednesday/Walsall MP John Stonehouse.

I asked Thorpe if he had any memories of working with John. He stated he had once met him on an aeroplane when they had been to the same city abroad. On

the flight back to Britain they got into conversation and Thorpe had noticed how tired John looked at the time. Thorpe went on to say that they had discussed John's constituency of Wednesbury on the flight back, and he informed him that one of his grandfathers on his paternal or maternal side (I forget now), had been a former MP for Wednesbury during the Victorian era. Can anybody shed any more light on this fact at all?

IAN PAYNE
Walsall

Trillions go in 45 years

OUR net contribution to the EU is about £9bn per annum. This amounts to about £140 per man, woman and child, or call it £500 per family per year.

The amount, however, pales into insignificance compared to the damage done to the UK economy by our membership of the EU's single market and customs union. The cumulative loss over the 45 years since we joined the EU will add up to about £2tn and we will lose another £1tn in the next ten years if nothing changes.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

Party was marvellous

ON Wednesday June 6 I attended a marvellous party, at Manor Farm School Community. I would like show my appreciation and pass on a big thank you to all who made it possible.

To Gary Bird, Director, Sue Evans, all the staff, caterers, volunteers, and the entertainers.

It was most enjoyable.
DOT BEDFORD
Pelsall

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LETTERS EXTRA

There is a future for Walsall shops

I AM writing in response to the letter from Ian Payne with regard to the M&S closure in Walsall and regeneration in the town. Firstly, may I say that the potential closure of the M&S is a blow to the town and indeed we should not forget the loyal employees who have given service over the years.

What we are seeing in retail is a combination of factors, in M&S' case there appears to be a trend issue in that people are just not buying M&S clothes in volume and this has affected M&S trading for a number of years.

If we look at other stores such as Next and Primark the public appear to think that they are more 'on point' and love the fact that there is an internet shopping offer in many cases. It is this latter issue that is driving much of the change on our high street, as many customers opt for the convenience of home delivery.

I have heard said of Walsall that if "there were better shops we would shop there" but a fact overlooked in much of this debate is the economy of much of the Black Country is at the lower end of the wage scales with Walsall's average salary lying in a band of £16k-£20k. The truth is that many Walsall people do not have the disposable income to support the specialist shops that make other centres a destination and these specialist shops go where the disposable income is.

So is the High Street completely finished? I do not believe so, but the shopping experience has to change. Walsall, in common with near neighbours is in competition with Birmingham Grand Central/Bullring, Merry Hill and other centres. These centres offer a destination shop. The Crown Wharf area, new cinema and The New Art Gallery creates a 'destination' and Walsall Labour's administration continued to back this and the work on St Matthews Quarter, but felt that the centre of the town around the gateway of the town's railway station (Saddlers Centre) was neglected.

The administration then, took the opportunity to purchase of the Saddlers Centre for three reasons, the first was that it was the link between the two developing areas, the second was that it would provide an income stream and even if M&S closes it still should make a return, though smaller. The third was to provide a means of removing barriers to regeneration of the station entrance to provide a kick start to regeneration of the Station Street area.

This was never going to be a quick fix. We need to position ourselves so that as investors undoubtedly turn their attention to the Midlands with the advent of HS2, they look at Walsall as a proposition and the purchase of the Saddlers Centre was a part of that regeneration jigsaw. We have a future and forgive me if I talk up our town, because folks if we do not, few others will.

LEE JEAVONS
 Councillor, Birchills-Leamore

Work on tallest tower is off to a flying start



Tameway Tower, in Bridge Street, Walsall

THE tallest building in Walsall is to be given a brand new lease of life thanks to property firm Tameway as it embarks on its latest venture.

Nottingham-based Tameway (Midlands) is planning to convert Tameway Tower, on Bridge Street, Walsall into 143 flats. Arran Bailey, owner of Tameway (Midlands), said the plans for the landmark building were aimed at increasing footfall in the town centre. He said: "Work on the building began two weeks ago by the development team at ALB and HBW, and it has come off to a flying start. Work is progressing swiftly, and we are really pleased."

Tameway Tower is 14-floors tall and was originally built as office accommodation in the 1970s. Part of the ground floor of the scheme will continue to be occupied as offices.

The team behind the development also successfully worked to convert an eight-storey office block in Dudley into 141 apartments, a project which is due for completion in August.



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Red Dwarf stars appear at town's mini comic con

STARS of hit comedy show Red Dwarf and a whole host of familiar faces from television descended on a mini comic con event in the region.

Organised by Mark Longman, from Walsall, Cannock's Chase Leisure Centre was host to the Heroes and Foes event.

And among those in attendance was Chris Barrie, known for appearing as Arnold Rimmer in all 12 series of sci-fi sitcom Red Dwarf.

Cult figure of the series Hattie Hayridge, who played the role of the female version of on-board computer Holly, was also in attendance.

Alongside her were the likes of Star Wars' Paul Warren, Primeval's Andrew-Lee Potts and Raven's James Mackenzie. Chris Barrie, who has been working on the latest season of Red Dwarf, said: "It's great to be here. When I do conventions I always try in terms of the small ones to not come to the same town again.

"So Cannock was offered and I haven't been here before. I thought when I travel on the M6 Toll I always pass the sign for Cannock and wonder what it's like, I must try it and get there at some point, and here is the day!

"It's been a really nice event. I've met people of all ages and it's good to see so many young new generations getting into Red Dwarf."

While refusing to confirm that the new Red Dwarf series will be back on TV screen's in 2019, he promised there was plenty to look forward to.

And admitted his 'ambition' is to record some new episodes of The Brittas Empire, which finished more than two decades ago – in 1997. He added: "For me these days I'm concentrating



Red Dwarf stars Chris Barrie and Hattie Hayridge

on doing more Red Dwarf and still one of my ambitions remains to get more Brittas Empire back on. We had a reunion last year and decided that we should try and get it back on, so fingers crossed."

Hundreds turned out to join in with interactive games and a stage show.

It was the first ever event of its kind and saw 'cosplay' enthusiasts dress up as their favourite characters from film and television.

From Daleks in Doctor Who to video games and geeky crafts, there was plenty to enjoy for fans old and small.

Red Dwarf's Hattie Hayridge, who appeared in the third, fourth and fifth series of the sitcom, said: "This was originally planned for March then there was the snowstorms and we came back on a better day. It's been good – I met lots of different and nice people. I haven't been to Cannock before. There's about three generations of fans now. There's the original dads who got their kids to watch it, those kids that are now dads are getting their kids to watch it – it's the ones that were kids that are now dads that are most excited!"

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Carl key to helping firm mark 200 years of Chubb

WORKERS past and present gathered to celebrate 200 years of iconic firm Chubb Locks.

Around 50 employees listened to speeches from historian Dr Carl Chinn and bosses about the famous Black Country company.

Eddie Bonner, who started working there in 1951 when he was just 15 years old, attended last week's event in Willenhall. The 82-year-old, from Penn, stayed with the company for 47 years until he retired when he was 61 in 1997.

He said: "I remember my first day. I was embarrassed, fearful of what to do and I did not know where to go.

"From day to day, we would learn how to file then we made the tools including hammers then we started to work on the locks. We would make about six in a week. My biggest memory was when the apprentices would collect the mugs to make tea for the locksmith and if anyone smashed a mug they would get a clip around the ear."

Roger Bentley, 62 of Penn, has worked at the firm for 45 years. He said: "In the day, the men would work and they would get home as their wife would go in for the twilight shift.

"There was a great sense of community with a rifle range along with cricket, football, darts and bowling. My uncle used to work here and I started as an apprentice when I was 15 years old. I specifically remember when we finished our apprenticeship and we went to London to have a meal with Lord Hayter Chubb."

During the event, which was staged at the Assa Abloy headquarters, Dr Carl Chinn gave a talk exploring the firm's history.



Dr Carl Chinn, Neil Vann, UK MD Assa Abloy, former worker Anne-Marie Easton, and Simon Teagle, of Chubb custodial at the celebration of Chubb's 200th year

He said: "The development of Chubb was an essential part of the industrial revolution and modern Britain. The best part about today was the employees recognising each other and pointing themselves out in black and white photographs."

The firm was established by brothers, Jeremiah and Charles Chubb - Jeremiah designed a lock in 1817 that was practically impossible to pick, known as the Chubb Detector Lock.

Chubb started out in Temple Street, Wolverhampton, in 1820 and in 1823 they were awarded a special licence by George IV and went on to become the sole supplier of locks to the Post Office and HM Prison Service.

By 1835, Charles had taken over control of the business as Jeremiah migrated to America and Charles patented a fire and burglar-proof safe.

In 1838 the company moved to the corner of Horsley Fields and Mill Street. In 1846, Charles Chubb died and the firm was taken over by his son John. In 1889, the factory moved to the corner of Chubb Street and Fryer Street in the city centre, and subsidiary companies were set up in South Africa in 1894 and Australia in 1896.

The workforce was mostly male before women were employed in the First World War.

In 1918, they produced 4,000 shrapnel shells per week.

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College improves
on a technicality



Principal and CEO at Walsall College Jatinder Sharma

AN education chief has welcomed the news that the first T-level exam courses will be introduced at Walsall College.

The college will be one of the first in the UK to deliver the new programme – described as the greatest shake-up of technical education for 70 years. The T-levels, which are technical qualifications at A-level standard, will be taught at Dudley College of Technology, Sandwell Academy, Walsall College and Walsall Studio School.

They are among just 10 further education providers across the Midlands chosen to take part in the scheme which was part of Prime Minister Theresa May's general election manifesto.

Across the country, 52 schools and colleges have been named as the first T-level providers. The first three subjects will be construction, digital, and education and childcare, which will be taught from September 2020.

Jatinder Sharma OBE, principal and CEO at Walsall College, said: "We are thrilled to introduce T-Level qualifications as part of our vast and rich curriculum."

Coding kits handed out in effort to stop thefts

FORENSIC coding kits designed to beat burglars and protect valuables as part of a police crime crackdown have been handed out to residents in the Black Country.

The home coding kits come with a DNA solution – each with its own unique DNA profile – that can be dabbed on valuable items to deter thieves.

The practice can also help police recover any stolen items, and link criminals to break-ins. It is part of a £40,000 West Midlands Police crime prevention scheme called Track and Trace, aimed at driving down crime in key areas and making communities safer.

Streets that will be visited in the Black Country as part of the trial are in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.

New signs will be put up in the selected streets, as well as pavement artwork, warning potential crooks that homes are protected by the special technology.

Residents are also being offered window and door stickers.

Chief Inspector Anthony Bennett, who is leading the

By Megan Archer

scheme, said: "Our officers will knock doors on every house in the chosen streets, offer residents advice to keep homes and valuables safe, and provide a free forensic property marking kit."

"Trials have proven that using forensic marking, together with the warning signs, can have a significant impact on burglary rates – in fact, it can reduce the chance of being targeted by 85 per cent."

In Walsall police will be knocking on doors down West Bromwich Road, Broadway North, Tame Street East, Alexandra Road, Norman Road, Wood Lane, Compton Drive, Ferndale Road, St John's Road, and Hall Lane.

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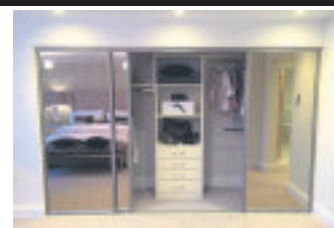
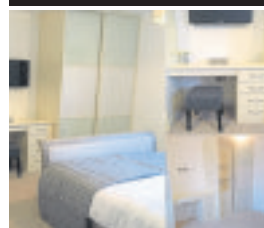


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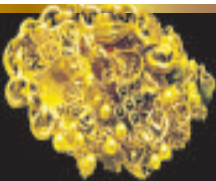
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Petition opposing one-way zone plan

OUTRAGED residents have backed a petition in hope of blocking their road being turned into a one-way zone.

Proposals have been put forward by Walsall Council to stop cars from travelling up and down Blay Avenue, near Walsall Manor Hospital. The move aims to stop buses getting stuck due to cars parked along the road.

Now, a petition has gathered 190 signatures in a matter of days – with 49 of the 57 houses in Blay Avenue supporting the campaign. Simon Tolley, aged 50, who is behind the campaign, lives in the street. He says residents have been threatened by motorists parking their cars.

“The council are proposing that our street turns into a one-way system because there’s a school at the bottom and during school times vehicles all park in the street,” he said.

“The last 10 years, Blay Avenue has been used as a bus route by a couple of companies and because of all the cars the buses get stuck. I put together a petition and gave it to my neighbour.

Report by Tom Oakley

We’ve had 190 signatures and out of 57 houses on the street – 49 have signed the petition, two are empty and six don’t mind. That’s 89 per cent of people who don’t want this. We don’t feel the residents have been allowed to properly have their say.

“It seems they have already made up their mind.” Residents say the cars belong to teachers and parents of children at Alumwell School, at the end of the street – and there is only ever problems when the school day starts and ends.

Mr Tolley says he wants residential parking-only to be introduced along the street to help solve the issue – as opposed to turning it into a one-way street.

Darby Road darlings celebrate their 60th



Brenda and Tony Shepherd on their wedding day in 1958

A COUPLE who grew up a few houses away from one another, are celebrating 60 years of happy marriage.

Brenda and Tony Shepherd, both aged 82, have lived in Darby Road, Wednesbury since they were three-years-old and when they got married in 1958, she moved in with him and they have lived there together ever since.

They went to Mesty Croft Primary School then Holyhead Primary Academy in Wednesbury before Mrs Shepherd started working at Woolworths in Market Place, Wednesbury, and Mr Shepherd worked in local factories since they were both 15 years old. Their love grew as they wrote letters to one another while he was completing his national service and they got married when he returned and they were 22 years old. They have two children, Ian, aged 56, and Gary, aged 52, and four grandchildren.

She said: “When he left for the army for two years for national service, he asked me to write to him. We sent love letters back and forth then when he returned we went to the pictures because that is what people used to do back then. I cannot even remember how he proposed. We have been together that long that a proposal was automatic. We knew we loved each other. We used to dance together and we had to go to Walsall for it because there was not one in Wednesbury.”

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Engineering group hit by problems in machining

PROFITS at Brownhills engineering group Castings have been dragged down by problems at its machining arm, the company has revealed.

CNC Machining, which sits across the Lichfield Road opposite Castings' main foundry site, slumped to a £3.95 million loss as it pulled out of some projects.

Despite a stronger year for Casting's foundries at Brownhills and at the William Lee site in Derbyshire, the group's pre-tax profits dropped to £12.1 million from £15.9 million a year ago.

Brian Cooke, chairman of the group which employs around 400 people across its sites, said the troubled CNC Speedwell machining business had been brought back under control.

CNC managing director Mark Lewis resigned during the year and the group recruited new general manager Steve Barwell as well as a new technical director, quality director and financial controller.

Mr Cooke said: "It is very disappointing to report a

By Simon Penfold

substantial loss at CNC for the year. One of the major issues for much of the year has been an inability to meet customer orders in a timely way, which has resulted in extra transport costs in excess of £1.2m.

"These costs have been necessary to prevent disruption to our customers' production lines. I am pleased to be able to report that transport costs are now back down to historic levels.

"We have also carried out a review of the operations of the company and, as a result, identified certain projects that were not suitable for the group. This has cost us a further £1m in write-downs of capital and tooling equipment."

Hi-de-Hi! as star is back to help Grange



Jeffrey Holland, who is a patron of the theatre group

TV star Jeffrey Holland took centre stage as he joined the battle to save an historic amateur dramatic group at the heart of his hometown.

The Hi-de-Hi! actor returned to his roots in a bid to help raise the £60,000 needed by The Grange Players to save their Walsall base. He stole the spotlight when he staged a special one-man show And This Is My Friend Mr Laurel at Aldridge Youth Theatre on Friday.

Walsall-born Jeffrey, who began his career with the group in the 1960s and is now its patron, said: "I'm delighted to help raise money for The Grange. I'm sorry that it's come to this. The playhouse is very old and run by volunteers. Everything is long overdue.

"It's special to me because of the personal connection I have with it. My aunt was one of the people who helped to build it. It's the only theatre of its kind in Walsall."

The Grange Players, which has been running for more than 50 years, needs the cash to carry out vital repairs to its Broadway North base, The Grange Playhouse.

It has been forced to shut, stopping all performances, until essential maintenance is carried out.

The venue needs new fire doors, a safety curtain for the stage and rewiring, holes to be fixed, along with other general building and maintenance works.

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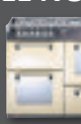


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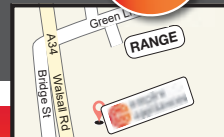


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Emotionally broken by a catalogue of dental disasters, for a whole year she suffered pain every day and her confidence plummeted. "Each day was a nightmare.

"Every day I'd have a new ulcer in my mouth. I couldn't eat properly, stopped going out and couldn't face looking at myself in a mirror – in fact, I'd cover them up.

"I'd speak and laugh with my hand in front of my mouth, avoid having my picture taken and couldn't chew properly – if I did go out, I'd always have to order lasagne because it was soft food," she recalls.

Terrified of dentist

Sheila's problems began when her natural teeth became mobile and braved her worst fears, having a full clearance to make way for an upper and lower denture.

Terrified of the dentist, she adds: "I thought it was impossible for things to get worse, but nothing could have prepared me for the next 12 months. The first time I took my teeth out and looked in the mirror, psychologically, I was beside myself.



Sheila and Dave Haycock - a new outlook on life

"I'd been so preoccupied with mastering my fear of the dentist, I hadn't worked through the impact of losing my teeth would have on me. It was devastating."

Initially, Dave confesses to "not being that helpful," explaining her native teeth "needed to go and to deal with it."

"I know, I told him," says Sheila, "but they were mine!"

Even the loss of a single tooth is now clinically recognised as a potential precursor for a mourning process.

Adds Dave: "She was upset and I felt utterly helpless. The guilt of it all . . .

I wanted to help, but couldn't. I could eat what ever I wanted, but she couldn't and every day – every day – there was a new problem to address."

Retired nurse Sheila got a new smile after a year of dental misery, husband Dave admits he too is now enjoying the life changes it's brought about.

Predictably reassuring

My experience with Steven and his team was the best. Getting the implants really is money well spent.

- Roy Phillpott

Steven's professionalism gave me the confidence and assurance that they could resolve my problem.

- Norma Aston

When I first saw my teeth I thought they looked just like my real teeth.

- Vicki Ball

it over and over again. I was not coping."

Taking advice from her daughter, who had received a recommendation from a work colleague that North Street Dental and Implant Clinic could help, Sheila headed for Dudley.

"Within 15 minutes of walking in to the surgery Steven [practice principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng)] was helping me," she says.

As a temporary measure, an oral impression was taken and her painful dentures lined with a soft material that would help ease the discomfort and improve fit.

'Own teeth'

Sheila was prescribed a traditional top prosthetic and a lower over-denture, retained on two implants. The surgery was carried out under sedation by North Street's clinical lead, Owain Rees BDS DGD(UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC61576.

"All I can say is that it has completely changed my life. There's nothing I can't eat and the implant prosthetic doesn't feel false. It's comparable for me to my own teeth. When I first saw my new teeth in the mirror, I thought who's this person? They looked natural, just like real teeth," says Sheila.

Dave, a former civil engineer, adds: "She's completely different. It's been life-changing for me too and we can now get on with our retirement."

Both keen gardeners, they agree the financial investment is in a quality life choice. "It's the best thing she's ever had done," adds Dave.

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Families at Min-Y-Don will be able to play among the sand dunes at Harlech beach

sandy beaches are some of the finest in Wales. The park is adjacent to Royal St David's Golf club, in fact only a five-minute walk to the first tee, one of the finest links courses in Wales. Or you can explore friendly Harlech town and enjoy its unique pubs, restaurants, shops and the historic and fascinating 13th century castle which underwent a massive refurbishment project in recent years.

A local convenience store is less than five minutes' walk from the park as well as the local leisure centre with swimming pool. A local train station

makes getting to Harlech easy if you don't want to drive and there is even a regular shuttle bus up the hill into the charming seaside town. The Park is open from March to January every year-so you can really take advantage of your own slice of heaven to escape, and relax. We would love to show you around and explain the many benefits of owning a holiday home. Get in touch today to arrange a visit.

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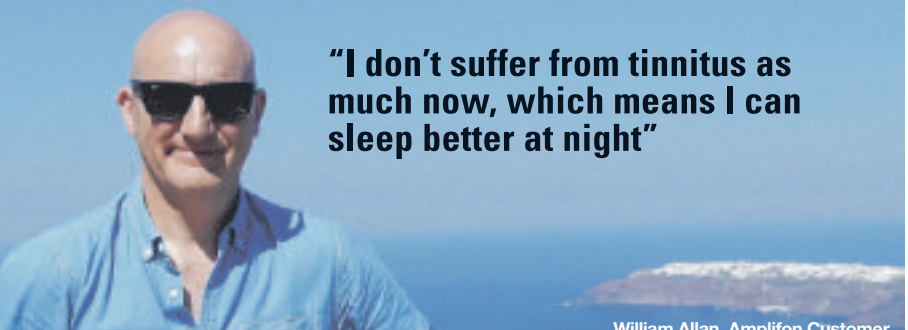
Sound advice on tinnitus

Six million Britons are living with tinnitus – but many feel they aren't getting enough help.

More than half of those who visited their GP with the condition were unhappy with the advice they received, according to research by the British Tinnitus Association. Eighty-eight per cent of those referred to an audiology unit reported having to wait up to four months for an appointment.

The good news is there are people who can help. Global hearing specialist Amplifon can quickly provide expert advice and hearing aids to bring respite from symptoms. Studies suggest that hearing aids do reduce the effects of tinnitus for a significant number of people. By amplifying the sounds around them, aids can make the noises associated with tinnitus less noticeable for sufferers.

Amplifon can offer state-of-the-art digital aids that can be tailored to suit individual hearing needs and come with bespoke tinnitus programmes. Lots of people are already finding that thanks to good advice from an audiologist through Amplifon – which has 200 hearing centres in the UK – their quality of life has been transformed. ■



William Allan, Amplifon Customer

"I don't suffer from tinnitus as much now, which means I can sleep better at night"

Keen traveller William Allan knew he needed to seek help after struggling to hear a tour guide on a dream trip to China.

Now, the 57-year-old's hearing has improved and his tinnitus symptoms have eased thanks to Amplifon. William and wife Valerie were completing their bucket list of places to visit when he became aware of his problem. Upon their return, he booked an appointment with Amplifon, and was impressed with what he found.

"My audiologist, Andrew, spent time finding out about my background," he says. "We went through everything in detail and he answered all of my questions. I'd also been suffering from a complex form of tinnitus so he recommended a pair of hearing aids that would suit."

During a free trial of his hearing aids he found that his hearing was transformed. The aids have special settings that help soothe the symptoms, including tones he can play when the tinnitus becomes unbearable.

"I don't suffer from tinnitus as much now, which means I can sleep better at night," says William. "It couldn't have been any better and it showed that these were the hearing aids for me."

Whilst his globe-trotting has benefitted, William's new hearing aids also allow him to take part in conversations in noisy rooms, which he struggled with before. He is now also able to watch television without the volume turned up to the max. **"I would recommend Amplifon to anyone who has any kind of problems with their hearing, including tinnitus,"** he adds. ■

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Fight to save town's post office ramps up

A FIGHT to save a post office has ramped up after council bosses applied for legislation to protect the 'vital' service.

Burntwood is desperate to save its under-threat post office at Sankey's Corner after a series of closures in the town left it without a bank.

The loss of HSBC and the closure of Barclays meant banking could only be carried out at three post offices.

However, one of these is based in a Bargain Booze, the company that is in administration, one at Swan Island, which is up for sale and the third, at Sankey's Corner, is under threat of being turned into a dentist's. The service has been put on the market by its current owner and in hope of saving it, Councillor Darren Ennis lodged a bid and deposit to run it himself.

But a planning application to change the use of the building into a dental surgery was submitted by another party – raising fears that it could still be under threat.

Now, Burntwood Town Council has submitted an application to turn the latter into an Asset of Community Value (ACV). It hoped that by being granted ACV status, it would protect the service and allow councillor Ennis to move forward with his plan.

He said: "The council have put in an application to get it designated as an Application of Community Value – it has been submitted to Lichfield District Council.

"The application is to allow it to keep the building as it is, which is an asset to the community." The news comes as the last bank in Burntwood – Barclays at Sankey's Corner, Cannock Road – finally shut its doors recently.

Lichfield District Council's planning



The post office, which it is hoped may become an Asset of Community Value

committee was set to make a decision on plans to turn the service into a dentist's, but a decision was deferred to the next planning meeting on July 2.

An ACV is land or property of importance to a local community, which is subject to additional protection from development under the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Ennis added: "It gives the opportunity for the community to

prove how vital the service is, giving that gateway for the community to save it.

"At the moment, we're still in the same situation. They're still retaining the money I've put down, I've still put a deposit down. I hold a councillor advice surgery every month and one man came in and offered me financial help. We've had so much support off the older generation and businesses too."

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16 **£3,300 raised in memory of Elias**

MORE than £3,300 has been raised in memory of a late city mayor. Staff from Wolverhampton Council and schoolchildren from across the city collected the cash for former mayor, Councillor Elias Mattu.

The Proud To Be Wolves event saw fundraisers celebrate the city to gather funds for Councillor Mattu's chosen charities. His widow, Councillor Asha Mattu, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled by the amount raised by the city's schools and employees at the council."

"The money raised will make such a difference to the charities and the local people that they support."

"The statements shared by the young people of what makes them proud of their city were heartwarming, and their parents and schools should equally be very proud."

Cash will support Street Pastors, Sickle Cell Care, Interfaith Wolverhampton, Alzheimer's Society, Acorns Children's Hospice and Central Youth Theatre.

Father-of-three Councillor Mattu, 59, died in February.

Carillion collapse now delaying payments for small businesses

CARILLION'S collapse has worsened the delay in payments for small construction firms now having to wait more than 42 days for invoices to be paid, a new study reveals.

The delay has increased by two days in recent years, said finance firm Funding Options.

Construction businesses are waiting longer to pay suppliers, which could threaten the financial stability

of a supply chain and cost jobs, it was warned.

Large construction firms can stipulate long repayment terms, with small suppliers to the former Black Country construction giant having to wait 120 days to be paid, said the report.

Following the collapse of the engineering giant in January, suppliers are still waiting to be paid, with some estimating they will only receive a penny in the pound at most, said the report. Payment delays are contributing to a high level of insolvencies in the construction industry, with 2,633

businesses going insolvent in 2016/17, an eight per cent increase on the previous year, said Funding Options.

Chief executive Conrad Ford said: "A single late payment can be an issue even for larger and more successful firms, and worsening delays could create more insolvencies."

"Carillion's collapse sent shockwaves through the industry, affecting smaller suppliers who will now never get paid what they are owed."

A Cabinet Office spokesman said: "We are committed to levelling the playing field for smaller businesses."

Photo is released of tram tragedy victim

DETECTIVES have released a CCTV image in a bid to identify a man who died after being struck by a tram.

Officers still do not know who the man was who died on the tram line between Trinity Way and West Bromwich



The image

Central two weeks ago. The incident happened between 4.30am and 4.52am on June 2.

Paramedics attended but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. Police, who do not believe the man's death was suspicious, have not been able to identify the victim. Investigating officer Dc Simon Taylor said: "This was a tragic incident and we are working very hard to identify this man so we can offer his family support."

Anyone who recognises him has been urged to contact British Transport Police by sending a text to 61016 or by calling 0800 40 50 40 quoting reference 390 of 11/06/2018.

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Asda be gold in store for £1m win worker Amanda

"PEOPLE will come into the store and ask if they can rub my arm for good luck."

These are the words of Asda worker and National Lottery winner Amanda Lewis, who won £1 million on a Lucky Dip at the store where she works in Wolverhampton.

Customers will still find her ringing up their shopping at the Molineux Way store – two years on from her big win. She has worked there for 16 years.

Yesterday a limited edition gold National Lottery kiosk, complete with 'Lucky Charm' Amanda's hand prints, was installed there in her honour.

She said: "People ask if I can sell them their tickets because they consider me to be good luck. I splurged a bit before I had a bit of a reality check and I still work here three days a week because my friends are here and I like to stick to everyday life."

The 51-year-old, who moved from Featherstone to Stafford after her win, bought her twins, Charlotte and Ryan, aged 23, both Audi cars.

She also shelled out on a plot of land for her daughter's two horses, paid off her mortgage and bought a home for her father-in-law in Dudley.

She still remembers the moment she won.

She said: "It was a big shock. My colleague, Susan, realised I had won and I did not know what to do. It was so surreal."

"I sat in the car and thought if I should wait to call or if I should call them straight away."

"I ended up calling them, or else I would not be able to concentrate as I drove home."

"My husband was working away and he called me back and asked how



Lottery winner Amanda Lewis from Featherstone, with the golden touch

much I had won. I thought I had won £100,000 but then he asked how many zeroes there were and asked me to sit down when he told me it was actually £1m. I was lost for words.

"I hope someone else gets a bit of luck. I would love someone to tell me they have won."

Colleague Susan Hill, of Oxley, Wolverhampton, has worked alongside Amanda for 10 years.

She said: "It was lovely when we found out she had won. She has been the biggest winner from the tickets that I have checked."

"It could not have happened to a nicer person and she has not changed a bit since. She is good at her job and she enjoys it, so why give it up?"

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Wheelie good recovery for miracle pooch Gus

A DISABLED pug has ditched his wheelchair after miraculously walking for the first time since he was a puppy.

Pedigree pooch Gus, from Great Barr, was diagnosed with hemi-vertebrae three years ago, a condition that causes deformed wedge-shaped vertebrae and curves in the spine.

His devastated owner, 29-year-old Sasha Alexander, was told the only option was to have him put down.

But thankfully Sasha refused and instead bought Gus a custom-built wheelchair for £300.

She was told Gus would never regain the use of his legs, but last year the little pug surprised everyone by suddenly walking again.

Sasha, an administrator, said: "It's a miracle that Gus is walking again, we never imagined he'd one day ditch his wheelchair. I was watching TV in the lounge when Gus jumped off the sofa and started walking on his own. I couldn't believe my eyes as we thought he was completely paralysed."

She added: "Four vets told me to put Gus down after his diagnosis but I refused and decided to give him a second chance.

"He lost the ability to walk at five months old when he started limping and struggling to hold his balance.

"But when it failed to improve he was booked in for an X-Ray - that's when we were told about his deformed spine. The vertebrae down from his neck had all failed to grow properly and that was causing problems to his spinal cord.

"If he wasn't put down then I was told at most he would live just a few months longer anyway - I was devastated.

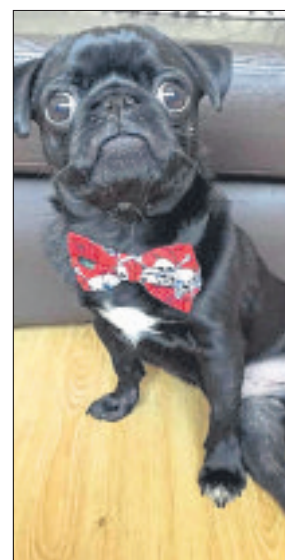


Sasha with the pooch and wheelchair

"I knew I had to give him a chance at life, he was such a happy puppy before his problems started and I was desperate to get him back in the park.

"Thankfully after visiting a fifth vet, I was told about special wheelchairs for dogs. His back legs are getting stronger by the day, he loves being able to run and greet other dogs on his walks now."

Sasha is now sharing Gus's story to highlight his spinal condition and to give other owners hope. She added:



Gus, who is now walking on his own

"Everyone is baffled by Gus now being able to walk and I only know of one other dog who this has happened to.

"All I can think is that his spine has now fused together which is allowing him to walk without pain. It's so strange seeing him running across the fields and around the house. He had his wheelchair for almost two years of his life and although we haven't gotten rid of his wheelchair yet, we're confident he won't be needed it again.

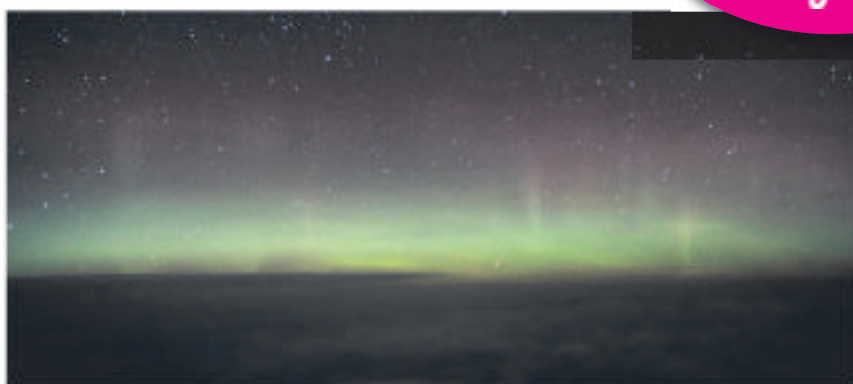
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Inspectors found that 'staff feel very positively about the school's future and morale is good'

School goes from strength to strength

Great Wyrley High School is celebrating a glowing report after a recent visit by Ofsted inspectors.

Headteacher Lee Taylor said: "The school has undergone an incredible recovery over the past two years and is fully positioned to begin its new life within Windsor Multi-Academy Trust.

"We are very proud of our school and want to thank the pupils, parents, staff and governors for keeping faith with the school during this phase of transformation.

"Teaching, behaviour and indeed the culture of the school is now unrecognisable from the

Commercial feature

time of its last section 5 inspection in April 2016. A recent Ofsted monitoring visit paid homage to the work that has been done to turn the school around."

Ofsted inspectors said in May this year: "Since the previous inspection, the headteacher and senior leaders have ensured that the school has continued to improve.

"They know the school very well. Improvement plans are detailed and clear. Consequently, improvement is evident in all areas of the school including behaviour,

attendance, teaching, pupils' progress and provision for pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities.

"Members of staff appreciate the headteacher's strong and principled leadership. They also value the openness and support of the senior leadership team.

"Leaders now have an accurate view of the quality of teaching across the school. They provide a comprehensive programme of training for teachers and other adults. They have changed the school week to provide a weekly training session for staff. Teachers work

in groups of three to reflect on, and improve, their practice. Staff have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm and teaching has improved as a result."

They went on to note that pupils speak of 'putting the great back into Great Wyrley'.

Lorne Wiggins, Chair of Governors, said: "Both of the inspection monitoring reviews have confirmed the tremendous strides we are continuing to take in ensuring our students' education is the driving focus behind our vision to relentlessly pursue excellence.

"The next chapter in the school's story

unfolds in September and we are excited at the prospect of moving towards an outstanding school with our new trust partners."

The report made particular note of improvements in the school's sixth form. Students told inspectors that they enjoy being in the sixth form and are glad they chose to stay at the school. All who applied to university secured a place at their first choice.

As the school prepares for academisation in September 2018, leaders are well placed to ensure a quality education provision remains in the heart of Great Wyrley.

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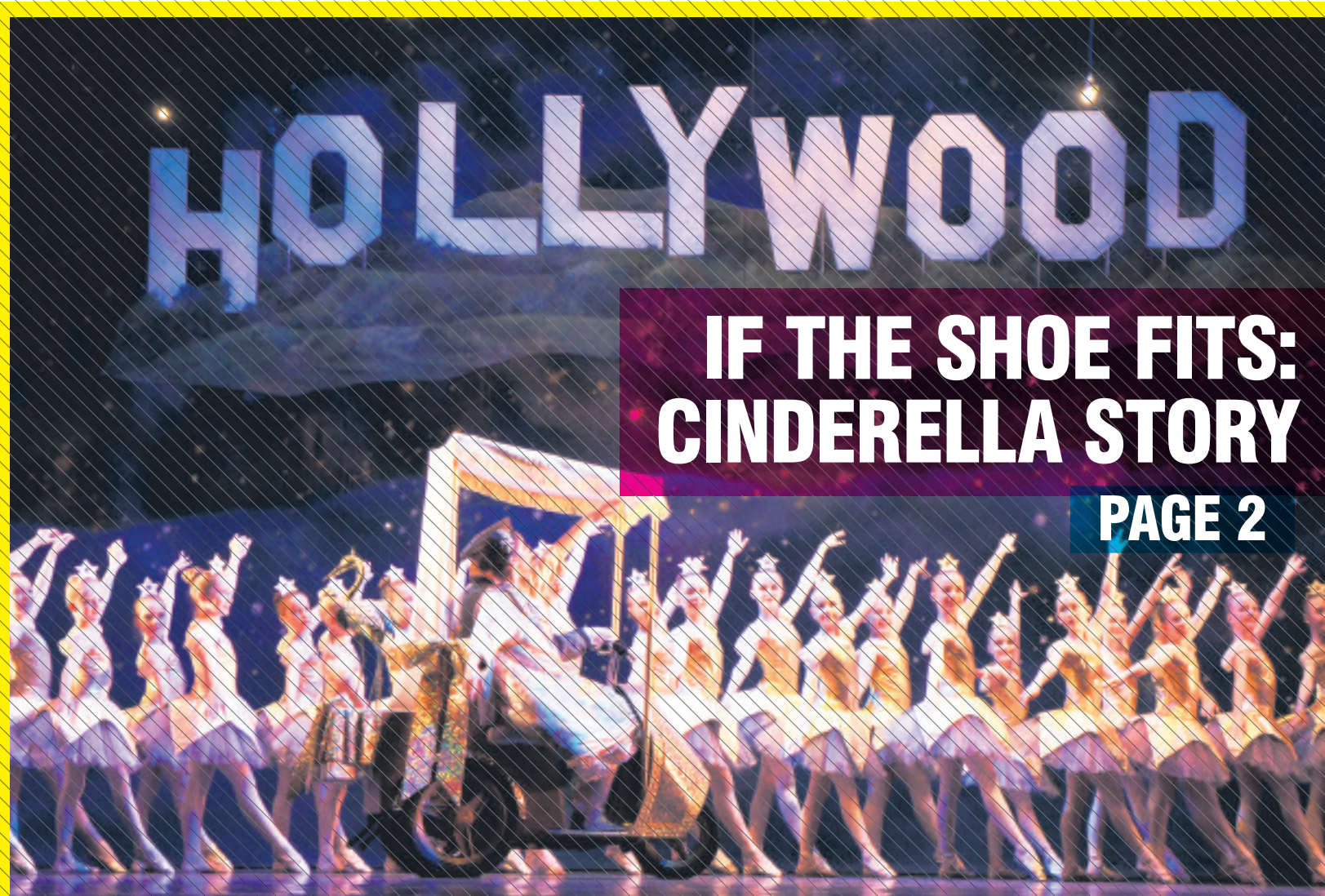
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IF THE SHOE FITS: CINDERELLA STORY

PAGE 2

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Dancer Monica will pirouette to the ball

Spanish dancer Monica Tapiador will be starring in English Youth Ballet's new production of Cinderella in Hollywood in Shrewsbury tomorrow and Saturday. She will be leading an impressive cast of international principal dancers and 83 of the region's finest young dancers at Theatre Severn.

Monica was born in Spain and before joining EYB she danced with La Scala Theatre Ballet and English National Ballet.

Set in the glamorous era of 1950s Hollywood movies, the lavish production draws its inspiration from the film star Grace Kelly who met Prince Rainier of Monaco at a press party and later married him.

Cinderella is a seamstress on a film set and the Fairy Godmother is her late mother – a former movie star of the 1930s. Her wicked sisters are Hollywood starlets competing with each other for starring film roles. The Prince meets Cinderella at the press party but at midnight she flees from the scene leaving a sparkly silver pointe-shoe as the only clue to her identity.

The choreography has been created by Director Janet Lewis and her team of international principal artists, who coach the young dancers.

The music combines Shostakovich Jazz Suites and Ballet Suites with memorable melodies from Hollywood films such as Tea for Two, Chinatown and Dancing in the Dark. The stunning new stage designs for the ballet are by Sebastian Petit and the costume designs are by Keith Bish.

We caught up with Monica to find out more about the show and what makes her tick:

HOW DOES THE ROLE OF CINDERELLA THAT YOU WILL BE DANCING DIFFER FROM THE FAIRYTALE?

My Cinderella is very different to the Disney movie. She works in the wardrobe department of a Hollywood film studio in the 1950s. She lost her mother when she was younger so she had to grow up very fast. Her step-sisters aren't ugly – they are wicked Hollywood starlets. Cinderella dreams of becoming a movie star – just like her mother.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF THE ROLE FOR YOU?

It's important not to get into the cliché of playing the artificial or fairytale role. I want my Cinderella to be a real girl that the audience can identify with. Also, the style of the choreography is neo-classical (quite modern ballet) and my body is having to find new and different ways of moving that I'm not used to.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT THE AUDIENCES WILL ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE NEW PRODUCTION?

The audience will love the selection of music in the ballet. We have beautiful orchestral jazz and classical music that the audience are familiar with. It really helps to create the Hollywood atmosphere. There are also many styles of dance – from glamorous show dancing to classical waltzes. I think that Cinderella's motorised buggy that takes her to the press party will be a hit. It is so Hollywood!

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT COACHING THE SHROPSHIRE YOUNG DANCERS IN THE CAST?

I have liked seeing the transition they have made since day one of rehearsals. At the beginning, they

Crystal clear – Monica Tapiador brings Hollywood glamour to the fairy tale



were quite unsure and nervous and they have become so much more confident and disciplined as rehearsals have progressed. They are learning how to work as a team and really push themselves.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ANY YOUNG DANCER CONSIDERING A CAREER IN DANCE?

If you can learn to believe in what you do then the audience will also believe in you. I think they should keep their passion even through the difficult times. Keep an eye on the goal that is driving you – even on the days when you don't feel that motivated. It is such an amazing feeling to work in a job you love.

● Cinderella in Hollywood will be presented tomorrow and Saturday at Theatre Severn. For tickets contact the box office on 01743 281281 or visit www.theatresevern.co.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

*I want my
Cinderella to be
a real girl that
the audience can
identify with*

BRB's Romeo and Juliet



Passion and tragedy

THE timeless drama and storytelling of Shakespeare's plays have inspired generations of theatregoers and artists across the globe for hundreds of years.

This summer Birmingham Royal Ballet presents an spectacular adaptation of his tale of star-crossed lovers, Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet. Céline Gittens as Juliet and Brandon Lawrence as Romeo are pictured above.

William Shakespeare's tragic and passionate narrative comes to life in this epic production, featuring stunning design by Paul Andrews which recreates the grandeur of Verona. A cast of more than 50 dancers execute Macmillan's acclaimed choreography, from the balcony scene's romantic pas de deux to large-

scale sword fight scenes and the heart-breaking climax. The spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's instantly recognisable score, played live at every performance by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

David Bintley, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, said: "Romeo and Juliet is the most important full-length ballet of the 20th century. It broke the mould of classical ballets because everything within the ballet supports the narrative. The stand-out elements are the pas de deux, particularly the balcony scene. As a narrative piece of dance making, I would say this is probably the greatest one ever made."

It is staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from June 26 to 30. Tickets from birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.

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Jobson heads Into The Valley again



ENDURING punk rockers Skids will be celebrating more than 40 years with a headline show at Bilston's Robin 2 next week.

Skids were formed in 1977 in their home town of Dunfermline, Scotland, by Richard Jobson (pictured), Stuart Adamson, Bill Simpson and Tom Kellichan. After releasing an independent single the band were championed by influential Radio 1 DJ John Peel, supported The Clash and then were signed to Virgin Records in 1978.

Their first singles were Sweet Surburbia, The Saints are Coming

and Into the Valley. The latter reached the UK top ten becoming the band's enduring anthem.

Their debut album Scared to Dance came out in 1979 and was followed by two chart singles Masquerade and Working for the Yankee Dollar, both from second album Days in Europa. That album also featured Rusty Egan of Visage after the departure of Kellichan. The band released two more albums before splitting in 1982. Adamson went on to have worldwide success with his new band Big Country but took his own life in Hawaii in 2001.

The band briefly resumed a decade ago and now the 40th

anniversary tour, at the Robin on June 28, features Jobson and Simpson with Mike Baillie, Bruce Watson and Jamie Watson.

Jobson said: "The Skids were not just another punk band. We were creatively ambitious. Most importantly we loved playing live. As I tried to find a way to celebrate the band's 40th anniversary, the answers ended up being very simple – just do it. Play the songs like it might be the last time. Give it everything. Then there's the new stuff. It's the beginning of something new rather than the end of something old."

Metal memories as fans ask Tony

Legendary Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi is returning to Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday to talk about his life and career. Black Sabbath have sold in excess of 100 million albums and Birmingham born and raised Tony is synonymous with heavy rock and his innovative riffs are acknowledged to be the beginning of what became heavy metal. Tony will be answering questions and fans can send them by tweeting #askiommi2018 or emailing marketing@thsh.co.uk.



Lakeside Proms for rock and movie magic

Music will drift across the lake at the NEC this summer as two big nights of entertainment take place across the first weekend in August. Lakeside Proms is the setting for an outdoor summer's evening with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. August 4 will see a night of symphonic rock, while the following evening goes Hollywood with the movie music of John Williams.

The first evening will feature a spectacular light show to accompany the iconic music of Queen, David Bowie, The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson and many more, followed by a fireworks display. On August 5 the orchestra celebrates film composer Williams with such blockbuster themes as those from the Harry Potter and Indiana Jones movies, ET, Star Wars and Jurassic Park. Tickets available on 0844 338 8000.

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MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (BBC1, 12.10pm)
England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of both sides' second Group G match, taking place at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Russia. Gareth Southgate's men will be looking to make it out of the group stages of the World Cup for the first time since 2010 after their poor performance at the tournament four years ago. The Three Lions drew one and lost two fixtures in 2014, failing to win a game in a group that also featured Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica. Recently announced captain Harry Kane will lead his side out in his first-ever World Cup and will be expected to provide the goals that England have desperately needed in the group stages in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Japan v Senegal (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.10** **A Question of Sport.** Sue Barker asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz, with celebrity guests joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell. (R) **6.40** **BBC News.** **6.50** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present from West Sussex, where they meet people who pay to spend their holidays staying in a church. Plus, a plan to reduce food waste and a report on the importance of beetles in pollinating plants. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, where items brought to be valued include a trunk that has travelled the world, a Japanese jar found in a water tank, a chair with a moving story, a Russian brooch that requires a secret code to be unlocked, and a locket that proves that not everyone has heard of the Beatles. **9.00** **Poldark.** Ross makes his maiden speech in Parliament, and is reunited with an older Geoffrey Charles. While her husband is in London, Demelza has to deal with the fall-out from a failing mine and a broken-hearted Drake. Dwight and Caroline have a daughter, but their happiness is short-lived after a shocking diagnosis. Ossie is told a terrible secret by a dying parishioner, and hopes to trade the information to George, who is seeking a way to reclaim his lost political power by buying land he can corruptly control. Rebecca Front (The Thick of It) guest stars. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Action from the day's group fixtures. **11.20** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.** England v Panama. Another chance to see both sides' second Group G match. **1.00** **Weather** for the Week Ahead. **1.05** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 Coast. **6.45** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.15** Best Bakes Ever. (R) **12.40** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.40** Points of View. **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** Tennis: Queen's. The Fever-Tree Championships singles final. **5.30** Million Pound Menu. (R) **6.30** **Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess the profit-making potential of a final batch of business plans, including an idea for a child's toothbrush that doubles as a mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series. (R) **7.30** **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.** Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer embark on an angling trip round the UK. The first stop is Norfolk, where they fish for tench and reminisce about their childhood. (R) **8.00** **Expedition Volcano.** Part two of two. The team takes a helicopter to the crater of an active volcano that has rarely been studied. The mountain is surrounded by forests, which provide cover for armed militant groups, and the scientists will only have a few short hours to gather information. They then move on to the surrounding area, a dangerous landscape marked by craters from past eruptions. (R) **9.00** **Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate.** New series. Documentary following the staff of the New York Times and exploring the critical issues facing journalism in the wake of Donald Trump's presidency. The first episode examines the first three months of Trump's time in office, as the possibility of Russian interference in the election emerges and the media is condemned as an enemy of the people by the new president. **10.15** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **11.00** **Film: Oasis: Supersonic.** (2016) Documentary about the early years of the Manchester band. **1.00** **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R) **2.00** **Holby City.** (R) **3.00** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **9.55** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.50** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** **Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold.** (2009) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **3.00** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** (R) **4.00** **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** (R) **5.00** **The Chase.** (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.05** **Regional Programme: Weather.** **6.15** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Poland v Colombia (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch introduces coverage of both teams' second match in Group H, which comes from Kazan Arena in Russia. The sides have not met since a friendly in 2006, when Colombia claimed a 2-1 away win. Given the South Americans' greater recent World Cup experience, they will be hopeful of another victory this evening. However, the Poles have a team that cannot be taken lightly and were in impressive form in qualifying, comfortably topping a group containing the likes of Denmark, Romania and Montenegro. In contrast, Colombia's qualification campaign went right to the wire, with a 1-1 draw in their final match away to Peru, and Chile's 3-0 defeat in Brazil, allowing them to finish one point clear of the Peruvians and Chileans in the final automatic position. With commentary by Jon Champion and Ally McCoist, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane and Ian Wright. **9.15** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the second of two special World Cup editions, with contestants Shayne Ward, Paul Merson and Eni Aluko trying to guess familiar phrases. **10.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.30** **Flights from Hell: Caught on Camera.** Three-part series featuring clips of things that can go wrong at 30,000 feet. (R) **11.25** **The Big Fish Off.** (R) **12.15** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.** (R) **3.50** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.00** **Film: The Core.** (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **3.35** **Film: Dante's Peak.** (1997) Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan. **5.40** **Bang on Budget.** **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick celebrates his birthday with a hot air balloon ride over the chateau at sunrise, before setting to work in the kitchen making his own jam and alcohol from the vast quantities of fresh fruit waiting to be harvested in the garden. Angel starts work on a new project of her own – building a geodesic dome on top of a floating platform. (R) **8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the quarter final, in which the five remaining teams must impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin in two challenges on the theme of childhood. The first task is to create a tiered macaron cake and two types of lollipops, before the bakers move on to create a fairytale showpiece combining sugar and chocolate. **9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred finds unexpected allies and obstacles in her search for a way to protect Hannah. The Commander prepares for the dedication of a new Red Centre, and Nick struggles with his new assignment. **10.15** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones is joined by David Coulthard to present action from the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. Mercedes and Red Bull will have been keen to bounce back here after Sebastian Vettel had a dominant weekend in Canada last time out. **12.10** **Gogglebox: The Best Bits.** Memorable critiques delivered by the armchair critics. (R) **1.05** **The Last Leg.** A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **2.00** **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Black rhino Kitani is due to give birth at Chester Zoo. (R) **2.55** **Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** Three rival sellers in Bournemouth try and clinch a sale from buyer Steve. (R) **3.50** **My Kitchen Rules.** The grand final. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** **The Secret Life of Puppies.** (R) **6.40** **Molly.** (R) **6.45** **Simon.** (R) **6.50** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **7.00** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.15** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **7.30** **Fireman Sam.** (R) **7.45** **Rusty Rivets.** (R) **8.00** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **8.15** **Nella the Princess Knight.** (R) **8.35** **Noddy: Toyland Detective.** (R) **8.50** **Floogals.** (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.35** **Dipby Dragon.** (R) **9.50** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **10.00** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30** **Access.** **10.35** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.25** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.25** **Inside Kensington Palace.** (R) **1.20** **Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge.** (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole. **3.05** **Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War.** (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **4.05** **5 News Update.** **4.10** **Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War.** (2002) Concluded. **5.20** **Film: Serendipity.** (2001) **6.20** **5 News Update.** **6.25** **Film: Serendipity.** (2001) Concluded. **7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Old Trafford. **8.00** **41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi.** Cameras reveal the nation's most extreme animal lovers and witness what can happen when their obsessions get out of hand, featuring a couple who live with 41 dogs. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Film: Blackhat.** (2015) Premiere. A computer hacker is enlisted by the FBI to help find the terrorist who is using his hi-tech code to commit cyber crimes. Crime drama, starring Chris Hemsworth. **10.00** **5 News Update.** **10.05** **Film: Blackhat.** (2015) Concluded. **11.25** **Film: Hummingbird.** (2013) A former soldier is drawn into the London underworld, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. **1.15** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Wentworth Prison.** (R) **4.00** **Now That's Funny!** (R) **4.45** **House Doctor.** (R) **5.10** **House Busters.** (R) **5.35** **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 **Nigel Kennedy Plays Bach & Gershwin:** BBC Biggest Weekend **8.00** **Cruel Sea:** The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster **9.00** **World War Two:** A Timewatch Guide **10.00** **tutankhamun: The Truth** Uncovered **11.00** **Night on Film – An A-Z of the Dark** **12.00** **The Art of Scandinavia** **1.00** **David Starkey's Music & Monarchy** **2.00** **Classic Quartets** at the BBC **3.00** **Cruel Sea:** The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster **4.00** **Close**
ITV2
12.40 **Take Me Out** **1.50** **You've Been Framed!** **2.50** **Film: Beethoven** (1992) **3.50** **FYI Daily** **3.55** **Film: Beethoven** (1992) **4.40** **Film: Happy Feet** (2006) **5.40** **FYI Daily** **5.45** **Film: Happy Feet** (2006) **6.45** **Film: Step Up 3** (2010) **7.50** **FYI Daily** **7.55** **Film: Step Up 3** (2010) **9.00** **Love Island** **10.00** **Love Island: Afternoon** **11.05** **Family Guy** **12.05** **American Dad!** **1.05** **CelebrityAbility** **1.50** **Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records** **2.15** **Teleshopping** **5.45** **ITV2 Nightscreen**
ITV3
1.20 **Rosemary & Thyme** **5.00** **Vera** **9.00** **Unforgotten** **11.00** **Classic Brit Awards** **2018** **12.30** **Blue Murder** **1.55** **Liverpool 1** **2.50** **Road to Avonlea** **4.30** **Rosemary & Thyme** **5.45** **ITV3 Nightscreen**
ITV4
11.15 **Live British Touring Car Championship.** Round five from Croft. **6.20** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure** (1989) **7.20** **FYI Daily** **7.25** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure** (1989) **8.05** **Film: Snokey** and the Bandit (1977) **9.10** **FYI Daily** **9.15** **Film: Snokey** and the Bandit (1977) **10.00** **Film: Lethal Weapon** 2 (1989) **11.00** **FYI Daily** **11.05** **Film: Lethal Weapon** 2 (1989) **12.00** **River Monsters** **1.20** **Minder** **2.30** **The Protectors** **3.00** **Teleshopping**
E4
11.00 **The Goldbergs** **1.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **1.35** **Young Sheldon** **2.05** **The Big Bang Theory** **6.05** **Film: Cheaper By the Dozen** 2 (2005) **8.00** **The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special** **9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **10.00** **Gogglebox** **11.00** **Gogglebox Australia** **12.05** **The Big Bang Theory** **1.05** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **2.05** **Gogglebox Australia**
Film4
11.00 **Mr Popper's Penguins** (2011) **1.00** **The Jewel of the Nile** (1985) **3.10** **How to Train Your Dragon** (2010) **5.00** **Night at the Museum** (2006) **7.10** **The Cold Light of Day** (2012) **9.00** **Lone Survivor** (2013) **11.20** **Battle: Los Angeles** (2011) **1.35** **Quadruphenia** (1979) **4.00** **Close**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Stolen Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A detective who specialises in finding missing children is banned from the case when her own teenager is abducted. But determined to find the girl, she defies her superiors and embarks on her own investigation to save her flesh and blood before it is too late. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth, Nicole Munoz, Steve Bacic and Matthew Kevin Anderson. (2015)

TUESDAY
Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Ex-Wife Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman's ex-husband offers to help explain her floral business, but his his vengeful estranged wife seems determined to make the pair's life a living hell. Thriller, starring Marguerite Moreau, Jordan Belfi and Arianne Zucker. (2017)



Rocky III, Thursday, ITV, 10.55pm

THURSDAY
Rocky III, ITV, 10.55pm
World heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Balboa settles down into a life of luxury - but a cloud appears on the horizon in the shape of ambitious contender Clubber Lang, whose brutal fighting style represents a serious threat to his title. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone, Mr T, Burgess Meredith, Talia Shire, Burt Young, Carl Weathers and Hulk Hogan. (1982)

FRIDAY
Mad Max 2, ITV, 10.45pm
A former cop haunted by his tragic past roams the wasteland of Australia in the aftermath of a nuclear war. He arrives at a besieged settlement and grudgingly helps protect the residents from a horde of marauding bikers who want to get hold of their valuable supply of petrol. Futuristic adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1981)

Susanna and Piers capture the mood of the nation

Have you ever thought to yourself: "I just don't have enough Piers Morgan in my life"?

Perhaps not. However, for those fans of Good Morning Britain who do enjoy listening to Morgan's controversial views at breakfast time, there is some good news – the former journalist and his co-host Susanna Reid are presenting a one-off prime-time edition of the show.

Announcing the programme on GMB a few weeks back, Morgan said it would be "this show, after the watershed", so no doubt the already controversial presenter will relish the opportunity to let off even more steam than he does at 8am.

He continued: "You know you think you've had enough of me in the mornings? Good news Britain, you're going to get a load of me in the evenings because we are having our first ever Good Evening Britain."

"We are coming to prime time – we're actually very excited about it. I won't have to get out of bed for that

until about mid-afternoon, it's going to be great."

Susanna jokingly added: "We've made the big time!"

Former tabloid editor Morgan is no stranger to controversy, and if anything he seems to have stepped up his provocation levels since his introduction as permanent GMB presenter in November 2015.

In the last few years, he has slammed model and actress Amber Rose for a knickerless tweet, taunted Hilary Clinton supporters after Donald Trump's presidential election victory, criticised a women's march in America, feuded with Harry Potter author JK Rowling, and is constantly trolling Kim Kardashian.

More recently, Piers made what many people thought was his most controversial point ever – stating that it is better to put the milk in a cup before the tea bag when making a brew.

In case you haven't noticed, there's a football match taking place this evening – England take on

Belgium in what could prove to be a pivotal final group game for Gareth Southgate's men at Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia – so Morgan and Reid will have plenty to discuss with their guests.

Depending on their previous results against Tunisia and Panama, the Three Lions could need a positive result against Roberto Martinez's talented Belgian side which came into the tournament as one of the favourites and includes Premier League stars Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Thibaut Courtois.

The GMB team will be gauging the mood of the nation following the big match, but whatever the result, Morgan will no doubt have plenty to say, as football is one of his passions.

He is a lifelong fan of Arsenal and was an outspoken critic of the club including now former manager Arsène Wenger on social media and his sacking.



Good Evening Britain, Thursday, ITV, 9.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Britain's Best Junior Doctors BBC2, 7.30pm
New series. Jo Brand hosts a quiz in which two teams of junior doctors from teaching hospitals around Britain, with in-house medical expert Dr Helen Lawal on hand to explain the medical jargon. The first heat features University Hospitals of Leicester v Kettering General Hospital, and the contestants tackle an array of rigorous questions ranging from diagnosing a patient's symptoms, prioritising cases in a mock A & E department, and getting stuck in with their chosen specialism, and the teams are competing for the highest score of the week to win a place in Friday's final.

TUESDAY
NHS at 70 - Live BBC2, 8pm
As you may have noticed if you've been paying attention to the schedules lately, the National Health Service celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. But while we may be looking back at its history, what does its future hold? That's one of the questions posed by this live event, which comes from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Hosted by Anita Rani and Nick Robinson in front of an audience of staff and patients, the programme

looks at how the NHS has grown since its inception in 1948 and explores the challenges facing it today, drawing on some new and exclusive research. As well as finding out how much the public are prepared to pay to keep the NHS going, Robinson, who was recently treated for cancer himself, looks at how the service compares to health provisions in other countries.

WEDNESDAY
The Highland Midwife Channel 5, 8pm
New series. Morven treats a woman who wants a home birth, but when she is still in labour after more than 30 hours, a difficult decision must be made. Hazel helps a woman preparing for her third C-section, who fears she will not survive the procedure following complications with her previous births - and with her military husband away from home, it's up to the midwife to keep her calm. Finally, Ruth finds herself facing the possibility of delivering a baby in the back on an ambulance while they are still an hour away from the hospital.

THURSDAY
FIFA World Cup 2018 ITV, 6.15pm
England v Belgium (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both sides' final Group G match from Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia. England will be hoping to continue their good record against today's opponents, having won 15 of the 21 meetings between the two sides, the last occasion being a 1-0 victory back in June 2012. However, Gareth Southgate's men have won only four games at the group stages since France 98, and will be looking to give England fans more hope that they can progress further in the tournament than in previous years. The Three Lions will also be keen to improve on the fact that they haven't progressed past the quarter-finals since Italia 1990. Belgium also haven't made it past the same stage



FIFA World Cup 2018, Thursday, ITV, 6.15pm

since they finished fourth at the 1986 tournament in Mexico, when they were defeated 2-0 by Argentina in the semi-finals.

FRIDAY
Building Britain's Canals Channel 5, 8pm
Writer and historian Dan Jones examines the creation of the picturesque Kennet and Avon Canal, which was born from a murky pool of dirty deals and demanding landowners. It came into being thanks to the genius of young engineer John Rennie, whose inspiration and innovations created a waterway that linked Bristol to London. Dan discovers how Rennie plotted the canal's route using the most basic of surveying instruments and marvels at the engineering innovations that made it all possible, such as the water-powered pumping station at Claverton. Last in the series.

The Bridge BBC2, 9pm
The homeless girls discover the identity of the killer following an encounter with psychologist Niels Thormod, and try to get in touch with Henrik to pass on what they know. However, they are forced to flee for their lives when the murderer comes looking for them.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
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Executive detached lies in a sought- after development

A delightful executive style detached residence, 23 Old Oak Close, Aldridge, lies in a sought-after development and has potential for further development.

With three-bedroomed family sized accommodation, a spacious driveway and superb landscaped gardens, it is for sale through Anchor Estates at £300,000.

With viewings being highly recommended, the selling agents state that this is sale is providing an "exciting opportunity to acquire this inspiring family home". It has extended, versatile and well presented accommodation, which offers considerably more than smaller, cheaper properties located on this popular small development.

It has convenient access to well-regarded schools, amenities, recreational space and the transport network.

The home has gas central heating system and double glazing. It is on a well appointed plot, set behind an attractive block paved driveway.

The charming lounge has a bay window to the front, a feature fireplace with a marble hearth, surround, mantelpiece and inset electric fire and an archway leading through to the dining room.

The dining room is a versatile living space in an attractive, open plan design. French doors lead through to the conservatory which has ceramic tiled flooring and a ceiling light/fan.

Upstairs, the well proportioned principle bedroom has potential to separate and add en-suite facility. It has a range of fitted wardrobes, a built-in cupboard and over stairs storage provisions.

Guest bedroom two is another double which could be split into two separate bedrooms. Bedroom three completes the current bedroom format.

There is also a substantial bathroom with potential to be split to encompass an en-suite.

ALDRIDGE £300,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Anchor Estates

TEL: 01922 288 800

EMAIL: info@anchorestates.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

Executive style detached
Further development potential
Three bedrooms
Conservatory
Superb landscaped gardens



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This detached property has been extensively refurbished

PELSALL
£350,000 >>>

This well presented detached property in Hall Lane, Pelsall, Walsall, has been extensively refurbished by the current owner, including a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom.

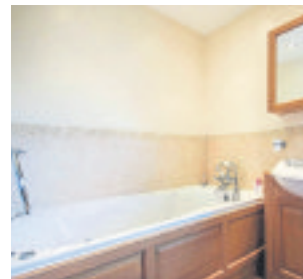
Having generous living accommodation and a spacious rear garden, it is for sale through Goodchilds Estate Agents at £350,000 with no chain.

It lies in a much sought-after area in close proximity to local shops and several reputable schools.

Internally the property comprises a porch, an entrance hallway, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a conservatory and a downstairs WC to the ground floor.

To the first floor there are four generous sized bedrooms and a modern fitted bathroom. The property also has gas central heating, double glazing and off-road parking and a garage.

Contact Goodchilds Estate Agents on 01543 226655.



Well-presented detached home on a corner plot overlooks a park

BLOXWICH
£300,000 <<<

This well presented modern detached family home in Hinges Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £300,000.

Ideal for a family, this modern detached lies on a corner plot overlooking King Georges Park, and is within walking distance of Bloxwich High Street.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a lounge and dining room, a fitted dining kitchen, a downstairs WC, four bedrooms, a master with an en-suite shower room, a family bathroom, single garage and parking space to the rear.

There is a pleasant rear garden and the home has double glazing and central heating throughout.

There is a decorative fore garden to front with a pathway leading to the front door.

For further information, contact Skitts Estate Agents at 01922 478 104.



Monday 2nd July 2018
7pm Prompt at
THE OAK FARM HOTEL
Watling Street, Hatherton,
Cannock, WS11 1SB

- LOT 1 - 20 Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes, WS11 9PR End terraced house £4.680 PA Guide £65,000+
- LOT 2 - 30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock, WS11 5QJ Two bed detached bungalow Guide £125,000
- LOT 3 - 31 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock, WS11 1HX Two bed end terrace Guide £120,000
- LOT 4 - 21 Balmoral Drive, Hednesford, WS12 4LT Extended semi detached bungalow Guide £120,000
- LOT 5 - 196 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP Three bed semi detached house Guide £55,000+
- LOT 6 - Flat 3 Grosvenor Court, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, WS11 1BA Leasehold investment Guide £60,000+
- LOT 7 - 18 Coppice Road, Rugeley, WS15 1LN Semi detached house Guide £70,000+
- LOT 8 - Land Rear of Heath Gap Road, Cannock Parcel of Freehold land (0.228 acres or thereabouts) Guide £10,000+
- LOT 9 - Building Land Fronting Kilmorie Road, Cannock, WS11 1HT PP for det4 bed house. Guide £100,000-£125,000+
- LOT 10 - The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, WS11 1AS Spacious detached bungalow Guide £180,000+
- LOT 11 - Building Plots Adj, The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, WS11 1AS OPP for two 4 bed detached houses Guide £180,000+
- LOT 12 - Land Rear of Rickerscote Avenue, Stafford, ST17 4EZ Building plot PP for 4 bed detached house Guide £70,000

Address	Wednesday 13th, 20th & 27th June	Saturday 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th June
18 Coppice Road, Rugeley	9.00am	9.00am
196 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford	9.45am	9.45am
21 Balmoral Drive, Hednesford	10.15am	10.15am
30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	10.45am	10.45am
31 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock	11.15am	11.15am
20 Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes	11.45am	11.45am
The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	12.30pm	12.30pm
Flat 3 Grosvenor Court Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	By prior appointment with agents	
Land Rear of Heath Gap Road Cannock	BY CALLING ON SITE WITH AUCTION CATALOGUE TO HAND	
Building Plots Adj The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock		
Land Rear of Rickerscote Avenue, Mossdit, Stafford		
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Stunning and historic home ideal for family

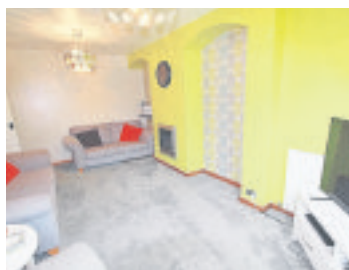
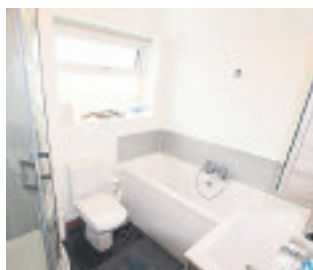
WALSALL
£700,000

Being truly stunning and historic, this four-bedroomed detached house for sale in Main Street, Walsall, is ideal for a family.

Having been much improved by the current owner, it is for sale through Edwards Moore at £700,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has a stunning reception hall, a delightful downstairs WC, a most impressive through lounge, lovely sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, a dining room, a superb living kitchen, a utility, four double bedrooms (master en-suite), an en-suite to the third bedroom, a large family bathroom, a study, a garage, an impressive private rear garden with large patio area, and a wide frontage having plenty of parking and lawns.

Contact Edwards Moore on 01922 745105.



Extended house has lovely gardens and four bedrooms

PELSALL
£249,950

<<<

An absolutely stunning extended family home, 11 Westway, Pelsall, Walsall, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £249,950.

Its accommodation includes a separate dining room, an extended lounge, a kitchen with a utility area, a downstairs WC and garage.

To the first floor there are four bedrooms with a modern re-fitted family bathroom with a separate shower cubicle. There is ample off-road parking to the front and a lovely garden to rear. The home has double glazing and central heating throughout.

In more detail the dining room has wood-style flooring and a bay window. The extended lounge has French doors to the rear garden.

For further information, contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01922 478104.

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● E.P.C. - D
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Broadmeadow
Aldridge
● Exquisite Detached Bungalow
● Individually Designed
● E.P.C. - C
3 2  Price **£350,000**




- Generous Accommodation
- Impressive Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms & En-suite




Walsall Wood Road
Aldridge
● Cottage Style Residence
● Sought After Location
● E.P.C. - TBC
3 1  Price **£199,950**




Crowberry Close
Clayhanger
● Modern Detached Home
● Sought After Corner Plot
● E.P.C. - D
4 2  Price **£279,950**




Greenhill Way
Aldridge
● Impressive Link Detached
● Sought After Location
● E.P.C. - TBC
3 1  Price **£229,950**




Berryfields
Aldridge
● Traditional Semi-Detached
● Sought After Location
● E.P.C. - D
3 1  Price **£249,950**




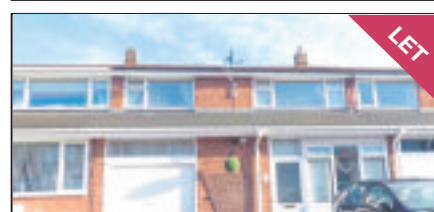
Rough Brook Road
Rushall
● Modern Terraced House
● Competitively Priced
● E.P.C. - B
2 1  Price **£575**




Florence Road
Sutton Coldfield
● Commercial / Retail / Offices
● Showroom / Workshop
● W/c & Warehouse
 Price **£1,200**



Sutton Road
Walsall
● Industrial Unit
● Office space
● Warehouse
 Price **£1,500**



Valentine Close
Sneethy
● Affordable Family Residence
● Spacious Mid Terrace
● E.P.C. - D
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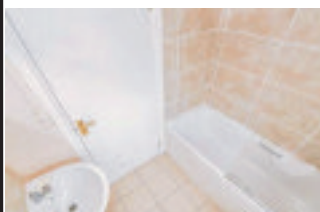
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NEW

Larkspur Way, Clayhanger, Walsall
Clayhanger, Walsall



EPC 70

- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- HALL, GUEST WC
- LOUNGE, KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- EPC RATING - C

\$199,950

NEW

Griffins Crescent, Walsall
Walsall



EPC 79

- CORNER PLOT
- MODERN SEMI
- HALL, LOUNGE
- KITCHEN, GUEST WC
- 4 BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE
- GARAGE, GARDENS
- EPC RATING - C

\$240,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW

Lichfield Road, Pelsall, Walsall
Pelsall, Walsall



EPC 31

- SPACIOUS DETACHED
- KITCHEN, CONSERVATORY
- INDOOR SWIMMING POOL
- 4 BEDROOMS, EN-SUITE
- GAMES ROOM
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- DRIVEWAY
- EPC RATING - F

\$390,000

NEW

Kent Road, Walsall
Walsall

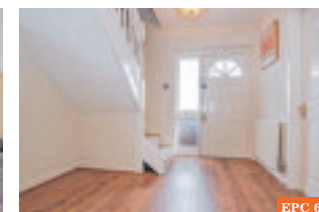


EPC 0

- FOUR BEDROOMS
- GROUND FLOOR WET ROOM
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- LOUNGE DINER
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY TO THE FRONT
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£130,000

Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



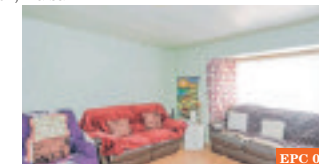
EPC 64

- POPULAR LOCATION
- 3 BED DETACHED
- LOUNGE, KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM
- EN-SUITE, BATHROOM
- GARAGE
- GARDENS
- EPC RATING - D

\$240,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW

Fountains Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 0

- POPULAR LOCATION
- PORCH, HALLWAY
- LOUNGE AND DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- BATHROOM & SEPARATE WC
- GARDENS
- DRIVEWAY
- EPC RATING TBC

\$124,950

Colliery Drive, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 59

- STUNNING DETACHED
- POPULAR LOCATION
- HALL, LOUNGE
- CONSERVATORY
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM
- GARAGE, DRIVEWAY
- EPC RATING - D

\$230,000

Gorsey Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall
Great Wyrley, Walsall



EPC 0

- COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
- FREEHOLD
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- CAR PARK
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- EPC RATING - TBC

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Hinges Road,
Bloxwich

NEW

£300,000

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offers over £290,000

	2		4
	2	EPC	E



Hough Way,
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	1		4
	3	EPC	B



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	2		4
	1	EPC	D



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	2		3
	1	EPC	D



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	2		4
	2	EPC	C



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offers over £190,000

	1		3
	1	EPC	D



New Forest
Road, Walsall

offers over £160,000

	1		3
	1	EPC	C



Bloxwich Road
South, Willenhall

£150,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



Chatsworth
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£130,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



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	1		2
	1	EPC	TBC



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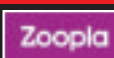


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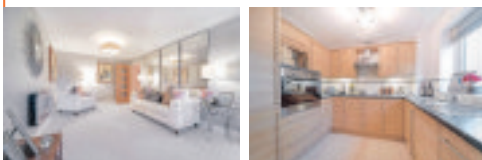
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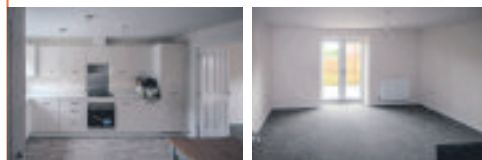
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- Large bedroom
- Bathroom with Shower
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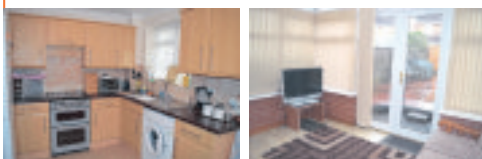
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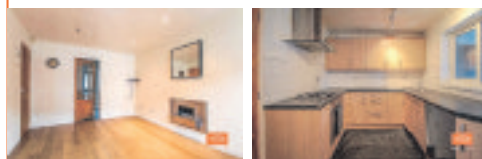
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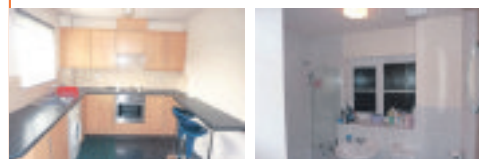
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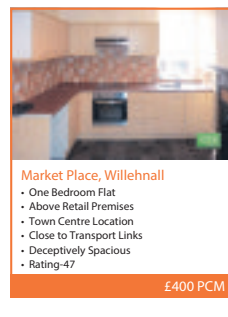
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Revised Fabia adds whole lot more

By James Parker

Škoda has announced the new range line-up, specifications and RRP pricing for the facelifted Fabia. Order books for the updated supermini are open now, with first deliveries expected in September. With a new, all-petrol engine range, boosted equipment levels, new safety systems and an even sharper look, the facelifted Fabia is set to raise sector standards once again.

The range will feature five familiar trim levels; S, SE, SE L, Monte Carlo and Colour Edition, and as with the current model, it will be available in hatch and estate forms. RRP prices range from £11,160 for the entry-level 1.0 MPI S hatch model to £17,950 for the 1.0 TSI 110 DSG SE L estate.

The new all-petrol engine range features state-of-the-art three-cylinder power units. Two MPI engines feature indirect injection and produce outputs of 60PS and 75PS respectively, while the two TSI engines are packed with advanced engineering, including turbocharging and direct petrol injection, enabling them to generate 95PS and 110PS. Both TSI engines are fitted with a petrol particulate filter. The most powerful of the quartet of engines can be matched with a seven-speed DSG gearbox as an option.

High equipment levels have been one of the Fabia's core strengths since its first appearance in 1999. The new facelifted model continues the Škoda tradition with exceptionally generous equipment lists across the range. LED daytime running lights are now standard across the range, while Front assist and a Multifunction trip computer are included on all models for the first time.

SE models gain front fog lights and 15-inch Cygnus alloy wheels over the outgoing model, along with Radio Swing Plus and auto up/down function for the electric windows. Colour Edition models gain 16-inch Vigo alloy wheels in white, silver or black.

Customers opting for the SE L benefit from an even more significant equipment boost over the previous model. All Fabia SE L models now feature Amundsen satellite navigation, Infotainment online (for one year), lighting in the front centre console and 16-inch Evora alloy wheels. These items are in addition to the Fabia SE L's already comprehensive specification list.

The ever-popular Fabia Monte Carlo further enhances its reputation for sportiness with a range of new features. These include climate control air conditioning, LED rear lights, rear electric windows and new seat upholstery. The styling package includes a black front spoiler, black roof, black floor mats and carbon-effect dashboard trim.

A new range of options has also been introduced – allowing owners to perfectly tailor their Fabia. Included for the first time are LED headlights (£960 RRP), 18-inch Vega alloy wheels (Monte Carlo Hatch only £600 RRP) and Blind spot detection and rear traffic alert (£390 RRP).

The new Blind spot detection feature alerts the driver to the presence of vehicles in the blind spot or approaching rapidly from behind when driving on multi-lane highways. The Rear Traffic Alert system monitors what is going on behind the vehicle and warns of a risk of collision when reversing.

Of course, no new Škoda would be complete without additional Simply Clever



Order books are now open for the updated Fabia supermini with deliveries expected in September

features. In addition to the existing Simply Clever elements, the ice scraper concealed in the fuel filler flap now incorporates a gauge for measuring the tyre tread depth.

And it's not just the equipment levels that have been improved. The Fabia's award-winning design has been given a subtle update. Building on the distinctive looks of the outgoing model, new LED daytime running lights instantly make the car more

noticeable on the road. The revised bonnet and grille combine to give the Fabia a sleeker appearance, finished by the narrower headlights. At the back, the design of the rear bumper is refined with added reflectors increasing the car's visibility - especially at night.

The Fabia has been a mainstay of Škoda's range since its introduction 19 years ago with more than four million examples having rolled

off the production line. The third-generation supermini was launched in 2014 and has already clocked up more than half a million sales worldwide – making it the brand's top seller in Europe and second-biggest here in the UK.

It's also proved rather popular with the motoring media, racking up a host of industry awards – including What Car? Car of the Year in 2014.

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Multi-award winner gets even better

By Carmel Stewart

When Toyota decide to make changes to a model they do so in style. Anyone driving round in the current Yaris is benefitting from a £76m investment which resulted in more than 900 new parts for the multi-award-winning model.

The result is a new-look front and rear with redesigned bumpers, grille and light clusters plus new exterior colours, wheel trims and a freshened-up interior which includes a new six-inch screen on the centre console.

Sensors

More safety kit has also been added with pre-collision, autonomous braking, automatic high beam lights whereby the sensors detect the lights of oncoming vehicles and traffic ahead while monitoring the brightness of streetlights and will automatically switch between high and low beam.

As well as the existing Active, Icon, Design and Excel trims an additional Icon Tech has been added. There is also a Bi-tone variant which matches interior and exterior colours.

There is space enough for five and, with a 286-litre boot, their luggage as well, provided the bags are of the soft variety.

Under the bonnet a new 1.5litre Euro 6 petrol engine has been added to the list. Ten per cent more efficient than the 1.3litre unit it replaces, it is expected to be top choice for most drivers. The other engine option is the 1.0litre 69bhp petrol unit linked to a five-speed manual transmission.

The importance of the hybrid is evidenced by its sales with 40per cent of buyers across Europe opting for the dual power French-



There's a 286-litre boot and space for five passengers



More safety kit has been added to the Toyota Yaris

made model with its 1.5litre petrol engine ably assisted by its electric motor and linked to Toyota's CVT automated transmission.

Behind the wheel is a battle between good and evil. Below 30mph in the city centre and heavy traffic the motor does all the work, no sound, no emissions, no fuel, polish the halo and look slightly smug. On the open road there is a total of 98bhp at your disposal. Not enough to win a Grand Prix but more

than enough to put the composed little Yaris through its paces. Halo slips slightly as you give in to temptation and put your foot down, putting the revised suspension, improved ride quality and well-weighted, sharper steering to the test. Moment of madness over you remember why you are driving a hybrid – clean, green save the planet, and your bank balance. But it's good to know this hybrid at least has a bit of the hot stuff



There's a new-look front and rear with redesigned bumpers, grille and light clusters

under the bonnet. Those who hanker after the red-hot stuff should get their names down for the GRMN inspired by Toyota's return to the World Rally Championship. It promises to be a humdinger.

Hybrid or standard, every Yaris is easy to manoeuvre and is flexible enough to make city centre parking, while not a doddle, certainly less stressful than in many other vehicles.

Standard prices start at £12,995 for the

Active trim which includes 15-inch steel wheels, automatic wipers, seven airbags, pre-collision system, lane departure warning, hill start assist, Bluetooth and power front windows.

Hybrid prices start at £16,495 which is a good chunk more than the standard version. Whether it is worth it to you will take careful calculations, totting up saved fuel costs, reduced road tax, BIK and the like.



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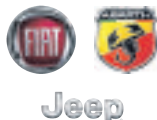
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undertaken

Gas Safe registered

07886 982903
01922 448311

Roofing

WALSALL ROOFING
SPECIALISTS

AS RECOMMENDED ON

thebestofwalsall
Flat Roof Specialists

- Slate and Tile Repairs
- Flat Roofs, EPDM
- Rubber Roofing
- uPVC Soffits and Fascias
- Chimney Reducing
- Guttering Repairs
- All Pointing Work
- Insurance Work
- 20 Year Guarantee
- Dry Ridge Systems
- 25 Years Experience
- Re-Roofs
- All genuine quotes beaten
- Special rates for senior citizens

FREE ESTIMATES

CALL MARK:
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www.walsallroofingspecialists.co.uk

Brookes & Son
ROOFING SERVICES

- ★ Discounts for OAP's
- ★ Insurance Work ★ Lead Work
- ★ Ridge Tiles Replaced
- ★ Flat Roofs ★ Pointing
- ★ Rubber Roofing (E.P.D.M.)
- ★ Chimney Repairs ★ Fascias & Gutters

25 years in the business
FAMILY RUN - FREE QUOTES

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ALL AREAS COVERED

WJB ROOFING SERVICES
FLAT ROOFING SPECIALIST

- EPDM RUBBER SYSTEMS • FELT SYSTEMS • FASCIAS
- SOFFITS • GUTTERING • REPAIRS • RE-POINTING

Free Quotes

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facebook

MOB: 07778 444401 TEL: 01902 259107

ClassifiedAds

01902 317878 | bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Funeral Directors

Turn To Us For
Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors

44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

BAILEY RANGER 460/2 S5
2008, lightweight, full service, end washroom and equipment. Ready for holiday.
£5,600
01785 292158.

CARAVANS FOR SALE with sea views, Clarach Bay near Aberystwyth from £39,995 includes 2018 site fees. Call Phil on: 01970 828277. sales@clarachbay.com

Caravan and camper
all types of repairs, Collection considered. Campers and caravans wanted from £50 - £4000 paid. Anything considered
07496 172 252

Holiday Home for sale -2017
Willerby Wrekin
BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.

Call Ron or Margaret
01743 885080
www.sevenoakspark.co.uk

VW T25 CAMPER
1983 high top. Off road 7 years. 87,900mils, all new - MoT, Tyres, clutch, diesel tank, timing belts, engine cooler, stainless steel water pipes, steering parts, pads and shoes etc. Good van.
£3,700
01543 502975
07970 678618.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
BONANZA CLEARANCE SALE
UP TO 20% OFF ACROSS THE RANGE
WE NOW STOCK RALEIGH ELECTRIC BIKES AT DISCOUNT PRICE
24 hour repair service! All cycles fully guaranteed
HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on
01902 782344
458 Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton

Car Boot Sales

★ **BEST BOOTSALE IS BACK** ★
Every Sunday 8am - 2pm
Gates open 6am
A34 Cannock Chase, Brocton, between Cannock and Stafford. ST17 0SG.
Sellers **£5**
★ **07890 267 041** ★

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday
and Bank Holiday Monday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Boaters £5
6.00am-1pm
07538 842842

★ **WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY BEST BOOTSALE** ★
Ivy House Farm, A461, Springhill, Muckley Corner, WS14 0BX
★ **07890 267 041** ★

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3rd golf, bowls, what for further?
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Holidays Abroad

AMAZING HOLIDAYS
at the **LOWEST PRICES**

DISNEYLAND PARIS - COSTA BRAVA
2 or 3 NIGHTS
FROM **£194** PER ADULT
19 DAYS/7 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD
FROM **£209** PER ADULT

PRICES INCLUDE COACH TRAVEL & UNLIMITED CROISSANTS
PICK UP POINTS WARDROBE, CLOATHES FROM BUY TO RETURN

Facebook **TEL: 01443 844222**
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Sports & Leisure

Free Ads
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Antique Fairs

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR
Every month. Codsall Village Hall, Sunday 24th June 9am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178.

★ **ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR** ★
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL,
CALFHEATH, CANNOCK WV10 7DW
Sunday June 24th
8:30 AM - 3 PM
07783 680 627
★ **ADMISSION £1** ★

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 16th May
07957 399964

Summer Fayre

SUMMER FAYRE
ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
Rough Hay Road
Darlaston
Sat. June 23
2pm - 4pm.
Bouncy Castle, Donkey Rides,
Tombola and refreshments.

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
House Clearances & Collections arranged at short notice for our monthly auctions
01782 638100

In Your Garden

AT SHEDRITE order Sheds, Cabins, Summerhouses/Playhouses. Willenhall Rd WV11 2HQ 01902 450137

DRAGONFLY GARDEN Pond 5ft x 4ft. 500 litres. Complete with Lotus pump/fountain, as new. £85. Must collect. 01922 457037.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED
Sheets. New. £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

ENIGRA Wheelchair, used twice. £50. Finari steam press, £15. Small disabled walker, unused, £20. Shower chair, £10. 0121 502 2706

HARMONY SINGER PEDAL
Helicon Harmony Singer voice and guitar pedal, new condition, used twice, as new. RRP £200. £150. 01902 448941.

✓ **A GENUINE LADY BUYER** ✓
PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY TYPE OF GOLD
Any type of gold wanted, e.g. 9 carat gold, Jewellery from £300+ per oz. Sovereigns £200+ each. Any amount collected. Gold coins, silver, all medals, bank notes, old brassware, old cameras, oriental items, anything old, interesting or collectable
Call Pauline on
01922 495066
or **07971 783206** ✓

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

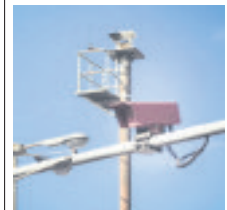
CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner. Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi. Windows problems etc. Home visits or bring to me. Long established. Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

Aerials

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR

ONLY £9.99

Cheaper than ebay!

FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN YOUR LOCAL EXPRESS & STAR.

- ✓ No hidden costs
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- ✓ No postage or returns
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- ✓ It's that simple!!

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or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

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**Buy price checked 2/1/18

ClassifiedAds

Aerials

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AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
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 01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
 Brought to you by **Express & Star**

A A CLEAR VISION AERIALS
 Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV
Aerials from £79
 Dishes from £79
 OAP DISCOUNT
01902 752036

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
 Servicing and Repairs
 12 Months Warranty
 All areas covered
 All quotes beater!
Call: 0121 601 9791

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DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
 All Building & Roofing Work
 Driveways, Landscaping
 Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone, Cawarden 01889 574066, sales@cwardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-pripped doors fully fitted from £395. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYL supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

GOAL
THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY
 Part of Express & Star Ltd **Express & Star**

Driveways & Patios

TW LANDSCAPES

Driveway Restoration Specialists
 Cleaning & Sealing, Patios, Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
 All aspects of Landscaping, Fencing, Patios, Walls
 New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
 Free no obligation quotation call: 01785 878574 or 07845 483443

Electrical Services

MB ELECTRIC.CO.UK Home wiring specialist, NICEIC. High quality local service. Freephone: 0800 211 8398 / 07939 503905

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
 10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
 Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
 0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
 Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
 Sat 8am - 12noon
 83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
 Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Gardening Services

OAKTREE TREE SERVICES

Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing

07427 060382

P.W.C LANDSCAPE SERVICES

All garden, tree and jet washing work undertaken
FENCING - SUPPLY & FIT
WE WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE!
01922 331171 07779 975563

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services

All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

H COOPER & SON LANDSCAPING

WE CAN TRANSFORM OR MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN

- Garden Walls
- Patios
- Fencing
- Turfing
- General Gardening

NO JOB TOO SMALL
 For high quality jobs done with pride and at a very fair price.
Call: 07904 929632

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES

- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced
- Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
- Same Day Service
- Free Quotes
- DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs**

Call: 01902 366855 / 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Gates

ALL METAL GATES, RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLSTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Guttering

No Job Too Small
Free Quotes
GUTTERS & FASCIAS
AND GUTTER CLEANING.
ALL GARDEN WORK UNDERTAKEN
 T: 01902 655578 | M: 07954 607991

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
 Professional family run business
 House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
 Telephone Kev
07794 912844

HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES
 Quick, discreet and professional.
 07939 421862 / 01902 410433

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 554757 or 01543 373233.

Painters/Decorators

C.I PAINTING & DECORATING
 Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

ADMJ

Decorating & Maintenance
 City and Guilds. No Job Too Small.
 OAP Discounts
FREE QUOTES
07855 957935 01902 630028

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 602000 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07782 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL HAND ink detailed drawings prepared submitted 01922 684503 / 07730 888063.

Plastering

D&C PLASTERING AND RENDERING Fast, clean, reliable service. Also building work. Free Quotes 07793 747829 or 01543 300444.

MINT PLASTERING

For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
 30 years experience.
 Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

Plumbing & Heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/Service/Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

A RELIABLE PLUMBER No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call or text. Will free quotes on: 07521 411108.

Removals

A DJ REMOVALS house clearance/single item. Budget rates/reliable. 01902 652346 / 07912 980177

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
 13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

Roofing

MASONS ROOFWORKS
 A SMALL COMPANY WHO DO NOT USE CONTRACTORS.
GUTTERS CLEANED OUT FROM £60
 Ridge Tiles Re-bedded/pointed
 New and Flat Roofs.
 Gutters and Fascias
 All aspects of Roofing undertaken.
 Free quotes.
All Work Guaranteed.
01922 278012
0800 689 0932

MG ROOFING
 Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
 Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
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Waste management

SB

Recycling services

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0121 558 2120
01543 500 599

WOLVERHAMPTON SKIP HIRE
MINI, MIDI & BUILDERS SKIPS WITH DOORS
 Established 26 years
Call:
01902 722876

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US (any size vehicle)
 General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US - Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
 82 Pikehelve Street,
 West Bromwich, B70 0TU

EURO SKIP HIRE

We supply Mini, Midi and builders skips.

CALL NOW
for a FREE quote on:
01922 615 842 or
07966 633380

4
Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
 Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
 All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
 Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
 @gtwolverhampton

6
Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
 It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1983, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
 Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios from £90pw*
Rooms from £65pw*
 *Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

WALSALL bedsit with en-suite and rooms to let. Fully furnished. 07925 581676.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
 Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

DELIVERY DRIVER POSITION (FULL TIME)

Aldridge based family run business require a Full Time Delivery Driver to assist in:
 * Nationwide delivery of goods to customers.
 * Loading and Unloading of vehicles by hand / forklift and general warehouse duties.
 (Making daily deliveries driving a 3.5t vehicle and 7 tonne vehicle will require CPC qualification. Though an advantage, this is not essential as the successful applicant will be given full training and the opportunity to undertake the qualification.)

Forklift licences also an advantage but not essential as full training provided. Must hold Full, Clean and Current Driving License. Good rates of pay. A polite and courteous manner is essential.

Please send C.V. to: enquiries@greenaways.co.uk

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- Repossession stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**
 Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.
www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
 Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
 No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call 01922 235 885
 or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
 Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
 Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
 Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7

Jobs

Building & Construction

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYERS & LABOURERS with CSCS cards, Walsall town centre. 07971 206417

Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
 We provide Training in:
 * First Aid / Health & Safety * Safe Working Practices * Security (SIA)
Call 01299 879 015
 Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

Employment Wanted

LADY COOK looking for work in Cafe, mobile, etc around Walsall or surrounding area. 01922 516528.

Drivers

DELIVERY DRIVERS AND DRIVERS WANTED
 Immediate start good rates of pay. Contact 07538 107105 or 07712 880831

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY

Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.

Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.

jobs.expressandstar.com
 REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



BMW Z3
1998, FSH, 91, 800 miles, MoT May 2019, leather seats, BMW CD player, excellent condition. Same owner for 11 years, under 4000m in last 3 years.
Any trial
£3,295 ono
07979 355640.



PEUGEOT 407 SW 2.0 SW
6 speed, loads of history, panoramic roof, cambelt changed, lovely car. Alloys, MoT, pas, e/w, etc.
£1,595 ono.
01543 467532.

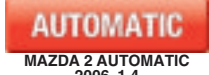
Cars Under £1500



CLASSIC CAR
BMW 325TDS AUTOMATIC DIESEL
1995, M Reg., classic collectors car, red, 115,000 miles, Good condition, Good working order.
£995
07956 134518.



DAEWOO MATIZ SE PLUS
796cc, 03 reg. Only 76,000 miles. One former keeper. Service history, 11 months MoT. Excellent condition. Only £695.
07963 464780



AUTOMATIC
MAZDA 2 AUTOMATIC 2006. 1.4
5 door. Clean and reliable. Regularly serviced. New Cam Belt. CD/Radio. Spare tyre. New battery. Alloys.
£995.
07846 421854.

FOR A QUICK SALE

MAZDA DEMIO
W Reg (2000), silver.
£300.
01922 452286.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 1.6 CONVERTIBLE
Black, with black leather interior, four new tyres. Good service history. MoT until Sep 2018.
£600 ono.
01785 224266.
prefer you to email with number
moniquefitzell@hotmail.com

BARGAIN

RENAULT ESPACE
55 plate, 7 seater, 1.9 diesel. Very good condition.
Any trial.
£995 ono.
07407 450117.

BARGAIN

TOYOTA YARIS
2002, 4-dr, colour collection model, excellent condition, 117k miles and drives great, full MoT.
£950.
01785 256183 /
07908 815307.

Scrap Vehicles

MCE
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

mainline
Salvage & Recovery
• SCRAP CARS WANTED
• FREE COLLECTION
• TOP PRICES PAID
Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Clutches/Brakes/Gearboxes

WEST MIDS TRANSMISSIONS
Reconditioned Gearboxes and Clutch Change. 07710 423803

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS
Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

FRANCIS KAYODE LAJUMOKE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 27 Lincolnton Close Birmingham B20 2NU also owned 141 Chantry Avenue Walsall WS3 1HY, who died on 09/03/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 31/09/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
QUALITY SOLICITORS AMPLHETT LUSSMORE
Greystoke House 80-86 Westow Street
London SE19 3AF
(Ref: ADJUN0135228) 7532875

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Trademagic Limited of 5 Elmdon Lane, Marston Green, Birmingham B37 7DL is applying to change an existing licence as follows:
To keep an extra 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at the operating centre at: Metropolitan House, Firstel Works, Brookhurst Crescent, Walsall WS5 4AX.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.
Dated: June 22 2018

DALLAS
Wide variety of Vans:
Small Large Lutons
Tippers Flats Dropsides
Crew Refrigerated Minibus
Vans Starting from £35
13A, Woden Road West, Wednesbury, WS10 7SF
www.dallas-hire.co.uk Tel: 0121 647 7112

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Deadline for comments on or before: 05-Jul-2018

APP NO: 18/0647 BY: Warren Crook FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM STORAGE YARD TO WASTE TRANSFER STATION AND RECYCLING CENTRE AT: UNIT E2, WESTPOINT, MIDDLEMORE LANE WEST, ALDRIDGE
APP NO: 18/0675 BY: care of eco2 contracts FOR: ERECTION OF NEW HOUSE AND CROSSOVER WITH NEW CANOPY TO EXISTING HOUSE AS AMENDMENTS TO PLANNING APPROVAL 17/08/16 GRANTED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2017 AT: 36A, REEVES STREET, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WS3 2DO

APP NO: 18/0667 BY: MAK EQUITY LTD FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM TAXI OFFICE TO APARTMENT. AT: 23, LOWER HALL LANE, WALSALL, WS1 1RL

APP NO: 18/0668 BY: MAK EQUITY LTD FOR: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT: CHANGE OF USE FROM TAXI OFFICE TO APARTMENT. AT: 23, LOWER HALL LANE, WALSALL, WS1 1RL

APP NO: 18/0635 BY: Marston's FOR: CHANGE OF USE OF CAR PARK TO BEER GARDEN WHILST KEEPING 3 SPACES, COMPLETE WITH BOOTH SEATING, NEW HANDSTANDING AND ASTRO TURF. AT: 1, NORTON ROAD, PELSALL, WALSALL, WS3 4AY

APP NO: 18/0645 BY: WYVEVALE GARDEN CENTRE LTD, FOR: REMOVAL OF EXISTING GARDEN CENTRE AND CABINS AND CONTAINERS, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE ERECTION OF 11 DETACHED DWELLINGS WITH MEANS OF ACCESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS STAGE. AT: ALDRIDGE WYVEVALE GARDEN CENTRE, CHESTER ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 0LS

APP NO: 18/0671 BY: BNY Mellon Trust & Depository (UK) Ltd. FOR: ERECTION OF A RETAIL UNIT (USE CLASS A1) AT: LAND AT JEROME RETAIL PARK, MIDLAND ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3QB

APP NO: 18/0498 BY: Members of Aldridge Cricket Club FOR: NEW TRADITIONAL TIMBER PAVILLION TO PROVIDE CHANGING FACILITIES. AT: THE STICK AND WICKET CLUB, THE GREEN, WALSALL, ALDRIDGE, WS9 8NH

APP NO: 18/0569 BY: Mr James Lawer FOR: CONVERSION OF COMMERCIAL BUILDING TO 19 BEDROOM HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION AT: THE JEROME CHAMBERS, 30A, BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1PE

APP NO: 18/0650 BY: C T Cheong FOR: CHANGE OF USE OF OFFICES TO 2NO. FLATS. AT: 40 LICHFIELD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1UU

10 Personals

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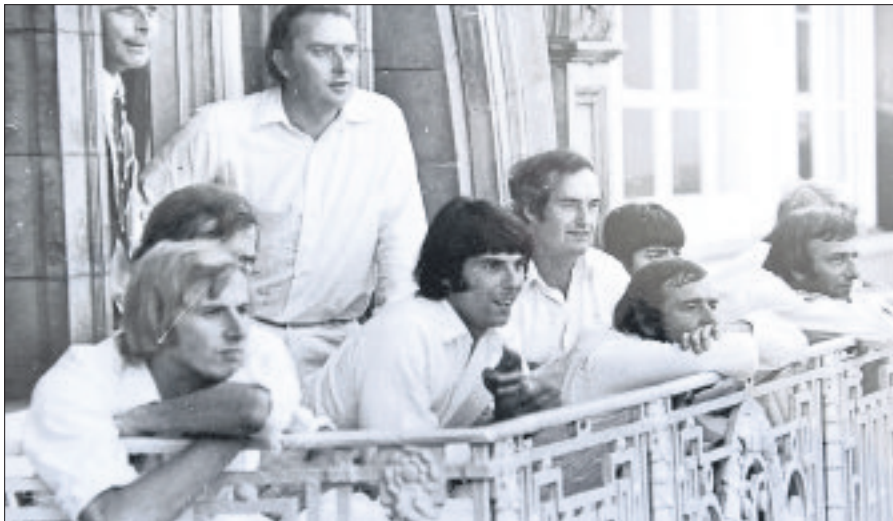
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Wolverhampton players watch from the balcony during the game at Lord's in 1973



175th anniversary dinner. From left Rachel Heyhoe Flint, Peter Baxter, chairman Andy Timmins and president David Barnes

Danescourt mourning loss of legend Barnes

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

TRIBUTES have been paid to Wolverhampton Cricket Club legend David Barnes following his death at the age of 80.

As a player, captain, chairman and president, Barnes was with the club for a stunning 65 years – making him the longest-serving member in their 183-year history.

He led the Danescourt men to victory in the final of the National Knockout – then known as the DH Robins Cup – at Lord's in 1973, beating Maidstone-based Mote, with Barnes scoring the winning runs.

Barnes, from Tettenhall, played 'well into his fifties' and returned to Lord's for the final of the competition in 1988, which Wolves lost to Enfield in a replayed game at Edgbaston after the original tie had been washed out.

Committee member David Lycett – who been with the club for 60 years, also as a player and chairman – was a close friend of Barnes's, and said: "He was here with us at the club for 65 years. He went to Tettenhall College and joined the club in his teens.

Regard

"David took us to Lords in '73 for the final of the National Knockout, and that was a really big deal. I wasn't playing for the firsts then but we all went down to watch and it was a great day.

"We weren't in the Birmingham League at the time. We were still in the old Midland Club Championship, which we won year in and year out.

"The competition had only been going for a few years and we were the first team from the Midlands to win it, beating Mote. He then went again in '88 as a player, under the late Pete Jones – and not many can say they've been able to go and play there, at Lord's twice. He played well into his 50s. He was a fine cricketer and a fine supporter of our club. I held him in the highest regard."

Barnes, as well as playing for Wolverhampton,



David hits the winning runs at Lord's

also turned out for Shropshire in the minor counties, Worcestershire's seconds and Staffordshire's over-50s. He was a batsman but also useful with the ball, with his off-spin.

He went with the Midlands Cricket Club Conference to Australia in the 70s and captained the Wolverhampton Cricket Association side which toured the West Indies in 1976.

"David was fully committed to the club. His two sons, Richard and James, played for the club too – James has retired now, Richard still turns out for Bromsgrove and I'm sure his son plays, so cricket is in their family," said Lycett. "He was a personal friend of mine, we went on holidays together. He was just wonderful. He will be greatly missed."

Club president Geoff Hopkinson was also part of the 1973 national knockout trophy-winning side.



David with a copy of the iconic picture

"I was the opening bat in that team, David was a very fine off-spinner – he was always among the wickets," he said. "He always fielded first slip too as he didn't like running.

"That day, we were at the home of cricket and it was an honour. We had a very good side, an exceptional side, which was led with aplomb – David was a thinking cricketer. He played until his late 50s and when we were playing together, we would have been playing about 60 matches a year. I took over as president from him, he did a hell of a lot behind the scenes as well. Without characters like him, it's hard for clubs to survive. He pointed the way."

Chairman Mike Elphick added: "Having recently become chairman of the club, I was aware of David's long and considerable contribution both on and off the field. He will be sadly missed."



David, front left, and former team-mates celebrate 40 years since winning The Derrick Robins Trophy at Lord's

Frankie goes to the Black Country team

FORMER British and Commonwealth champion Frankie Gavin has signed a one-year management contract with Black Country Boxing Promotions.

The 32-year-old held the British and Commonwealth titles between 2012 and 2015 and challenged Kell Brook for the IBF welterweight title in 2015.

As an amateur, Birmingham fighter Gavin won a gold medal at the 2007 World Championships, becoming England's first ever winner of that event. He also won lightweight gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

"I'm delighted to have Frankie on board," said BCB's head of boxing Errol Johnson. "He's one of the most talented boxers that Britain has produced and I believe there are still some very big fights out there for him.

"Frankie knows what we expect of him, and vice-versa, so I'm relishing the opportunity to get him to where we both think he should be."

Gavin said: "I'm glad to be signing with Errol. I have known him a long time and I know he can guide me to a few more successful nights in my career. There's some big fight news coming soon so watch this space."

Midlands Leagues structure confirmed

THE Midlands Leagues structure for next season has been confirmed after an RFU panel dismissed Melbourne's appeal against relegation from Midlands One West. Melbourne will play in Midlands Two East North next season with ten North Midlands clubs in the 14-club Midlands One West.

Kidderminster Carolians have been level-transferred from Midlands Two West North to Midlands Two West South where they will face ten clubs from Warwickshire.

Places have been left open for Oswestry, who are considering returning to the Midlands Leagues from the North where there has been league restructuring, and also Dixons.

Birmingham & Solihull, who won the Midlands Premier title last season, will play in National Two South next season with Stourbridge remaining in National Two North and Birmingham Moseley in National One. Three North Midlands clubs, Birmingham Barbarians, Five Ways OE and Dudley Wasps will continue to play their rugby outside of the league structure.

Baggies face Hatters in Carabao opener

ALBION have been drawn at home to League One Luton Town in the first round of the Carabao Cup.

The Baggies enter the competition in the first round next season after finishing bottom of the Premier League.

Villa are away at League Two Yeovil Town, while Walsall travel to League Two Tranmere Rovers. It means Saddlers' new striker Andy Cook makes an immediate return to his former club.

"I'm a little bit shocked," Cook said. "I've only just left and I didn't think it'd be that quick that I'd go back to play against them."

"It'll be nice to go back and see what reaction they give me."

Fixtures will take place during the week commencing Monday, August 13. Extra-time has been removed, so the ties go straight to penalties, reverting to the traditional alternating format, if scores are level after 90 minutes. VAR will also be used in all League Cup fixtures played at Premier League stadiums next term.



Sennett's battle on for British belt

MATT SEN and Josh Burke will renew their rivalry in a Black Country battle for the eight-round British Challenge cruiserweight title.

Sen has been paired with Burke for a title fight that will take place at the Venue, Dudley, on Saturday, July 7.

Unbeaten Sen will also put his '0' on the line against Burke, who has unsuccessfully challenged for the title once. He was stopped in four rounds by Dilly Singh last year.

Burke, aged 32, has additionally been beaten by Russell Henshaw and Courtney Richards on points as a pro, but has beaten Lee Jones and Rolandas Cesna over-the-distance.

Sen - full name Matthew Sennett - is, like Burke, from Wolverhampton. He's originally from Heath Town, but now lives in Oldbury. The 30-year-old has recorded three points wins since turning over against Dmitriy Kalinovskij, Henshaw and Kevin Williams.

Six undercard bouts have been scheduled to support the main event featuring Danny Ball, Josh Miller, Connor Lee Jones, Aaron Lovell, Kirstie Bavington and debutant Daryl Pearce.

Kingswinford's Ball will be looking for a record a sixth success from six outings, in the super welterweight division where older brother Jamie is a former Midlands champion.

Dudley's Miller is back in action after a two-year absence from light heavyweight activity. 'The Jackal,' 24, had impressed in points results over Iain Jackson and Mark Till.

Village knockout sees Pelsall move step closer to Lord's

PELSALL and Hagley are starting to dream of Lord's after powering into the last 32 of the National Village Knockout.

Both sides made light work of their regional showdowns at the weekend with Pelsall easing to a nine-wicket win at Quatt in the Shropshire, Staffs and West Midlands group while Hagley saw off Astwood Bank by seven wickets in the Worcestershire showdown.

Pelsall now face a trip to Northamptonshire-based Barby - who play in the Warwickshire League - on Sunday, June 24, and skipper Danny Pennell believes they have some unfinished business after being beaten in the semi-finals of the competition by Woodhouse Grange in 2015.

"This is a competition the players look forward to and if we continue to get good availability then hopefully we can go deep again," said Pennell. "As a club cricketer, to play at Lord's would be massive."

Pennell (3-20) and Dan Whale (3-29) helped dismiss Quatt for 153 before an unbeaten 71 from Todd Henderson and 57no from Alex Jones saw them home.

Wizard of Oz pays tribute to Saddlers

ERHUN OZTUMER paid tribute to Walsall's staff and supporters after his exit from the club was confirmed.

The 27-year-old signed for Championship club Bolton, bringing to an end a memorable two-year stay with the Saddlers.

Oztumer finished top scorer in both of his seasons at the Banks's Stadium, netting a total of 32 goals in 93 appearances.

And the former Peterborough playmaker, who was released by Charlton at the age of 16 for

being too small, thanked the Saddlers for providing the platform to prove himself in League One.

He said: "The Walsall fans were great for me and I owe them a lot. I had two fantastic years at the club but my aim was to play as high as I possibly could, so it was time to move on.

"I went to Walsall and wasn't proven at League One level. It is only because they gave me the freedom to express myself on the ball that I was able to improve. The manager and the coaching staff were excellent and I have learned a lot."

Walsall's Michael Oakes admits he is looking forward to working with Liam Roberts - after receiving a number of glowing reports about the goalkeeper. The 44-year-old former Wolves and Villa glovesman was appointed Saddlers' goalkeeping coach last month after leaving Wrexham.

Oakes' move to the Banks's Stadium has seen him reunited with boss Dean Keates and assistant Andy Davies - with the three men instrumental in helping the Welsh side register a club record amount of clean sheets last season.

Graydon's backing for boss Keates

WALSALL legend Ray Graydon has backed Dean Keates to get it right in the transfer market.

Graydon will forever be remembered as one of the greatest managers in Saddlers history after he twice won promotion to what is now the Championship.

Despite Walsall's squad currently looking light on numbers, last week it was revealed Keates pulled the plug on a signing after the player went on to request more money despite initially agreeing to join.

"I'm glad Deano called off that transfer - I'd have done exactly the same," Graydon said.

"There is a way to go about your business and if you agree to deal you are making a promise. Dean pulling the plug shows strength, he's shown what he is capable of. Building a successful team is not about one player. Walsall don't have a big budget and that means to have success you need to sign good players who are good people.

"Then it's all about bonding them together into a unit. It's a very tough job, it's not easy for Dean to sign players.

"But his standards are key it all. He has got to be strong in every area which he is proving to be.

"He needs to bring in players who will buy into what he wants. He needs them to be on time, he needs them to work hard and needs them to be willing to improve. What he doesn't need is them upsetting other people at the football club and breaking promises."

VITAL POINTS IN FIGHT TO STAY UP

WALSALL were thwarted by the weather in their Birmingham League premier division clash against Shrewsbury.

A fourth wicket partnership of 107 between Billy Cox (77) and Bruce Thomason (66) helped Walsall to 230-5 in 55 overs, against the leaders, who replied with 193-7 in 49 overs, after an interruption for rain curtailed their reply by six overs.

Ed Foster top scored with 50 for Shrewsbury, while veteran Walsall skipper Paul Wicker finished with 3-38 to earn his side a valuable 14 points in their battle to stay out of the relegation zone.

Streety went down by three wickets to Fordhouses, who move up to second in division two. Put in, Streety were bowled out for 241. Sam Bates (68) and Akhbar Ahmed (40) led the way with Adam Peat (4-73) and Steven Sandhu (3-33) among the wickets for Fordhouses.

Sandhu then struck 17 boundaries and four sixes in a glorious innings of 111 from 102 balls which steered Fordhouses to victory with the help of Alex McChristie (41). They put on 142 for the third wicket before Lewis Peat (45 not out from 34 balls) secured the win.

Stourbridge's 100 run success at Pelsall takes them to the top of Division Three. Nathan Crudeli (79 not out) and Juhar Johal (65) saw Stourbridge to 239-5, with Dan Wale taking 3-71 for the home side. Despite a 64 from 49 balls from opener Tom Boyd in reply, Pelsall were all out for 139 with Johal 5-17 and Hasnain Nawaz (3-14).

In the Staffs Clubs championship, Aldridge racked up 219 and beat Springfield by 102 runs. Shahzad Ali hit 47 and Ross Doolan 45. Afzal Hussain took 4-21 in Springfield's reply of 104.

Bloxwich suffered at the hands of Penn, for whom Tom Nutting carried his bat for 136 not out of 278-7. Aaron Allcock scored 43 in reply, but was the only resistance as Ravi Paul claimed 6-46 and Bloxwich were skittled for 99 to lose by 179 runs.

Battle of Baggies II - rematch



Tommy Langford and Jason Welborn, who are ready to face each other again

TWO ALBION-MAD boxers will be back at Walsall Town Hall to slug it out for the British middleweight belt again after a rematch of the Battle of the Baggies was approved.

Jason Welborn (23-6) stunned Tommy Langford (20-2) at Walsall Town Hall last month to take the British middleweight title from him in an enthralling and tight encounter. Two judges gave the bout to Welborn by 114-113 with the third judge awarding it to Langford at 115-113.

Langford was the big favourite going into the bout, having already defeated his mandatory challenger, but it was the underdog who

snatched the victory on a split decision. A rematch is now on the cards after the British Boxing Board of Control accepted a request from Black Country Boxing promoter Errol Johnson. It is expected to take place in Walsall in September and Welborn is confident he'll walk away a winner again. he said: "I'll get back in training and work on what I should have done a bit more of. Even though I got the win I've looked at a few mistakes.

"A win is a win, I got the belt, I got what I wanted. But it's all right winning it, now it's about defending it."

Ineligible player deduction for Pics

RUSHALL OLYMPIC have been deducted 12 points and fined £100 after fielding an ineligible player - ensuring they finished the 2017/18 campaign 18th in the Evo-Stik Premier Division.

The Pics were handed the penalty by the Football Association after playing Dominic Dell in 17 fixtures when his registration had not been approved.

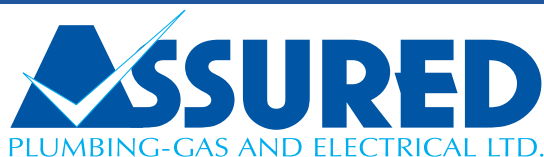
A storming second half of the campaign had seen Liam McDonald's side finish eighth in the final standings.

But the points deduction has seen them tumble to 18th.

Alongside the fine, the club has also had to pay £120 in costs.

*** The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterley, Telford. Thursday, June 21, 2018

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As our reputation for innovation and excellence grows, I am very proud to be leading this school. We have an outstanding new building at Springfield Campus in Wolverhampton, with spacious design studios, classrooms and workshops featuring advanced equipment which inspires young minds.

Working closely with the University of Wolverhampton, professional bodies and business partners, we are fully committed to helping young people achieve their goals. Our passion and drive is giving pupils aspirations and confidence, as well as the attributes essential for a modern workplace.

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I look forward to meeting with you.

Av Gill

Principal

DESIGN

Our aim at the UTC is to support students to develop the key skills, knowledge and industry contacts that they need to be successful and forge a career in one of the leading creative industries.

Students develop a full range of design and Computer/CAD skills in preparation for industry and university, using the very latest software.

They create a useful portfolio of work which can be used for interviews at the next stage in a career in a design related field. Opportunities to work with architects and designers give our students real insight into the professional world, and strong future employment links. We recently welcomed architect and TV presenter George Clarke to the UTC, and Trevor Palin, a renowned architectural photographer.

We regularly exhibit students work at Wolverhampton Art Gallery and other venues. This year, for the first time, we will also be hosting an end of year exhibition of student's practical outcomes at our very own Springfield Campus.

Our curriculum offer of art design, including 3D design, fine art, photography, architecture, interior design and product design, provides opportunities for students to experiment with materials and processes.

BUILD

We offer a professional approach to the world of construction, with hands-on experience and the chance to develop key skills in architectural drawing, CAD and construction industry reports to support a number of future career options.

We liaise with professionals from building control, architectural practices, building pathology and forensics to ensure the highest standards.

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Here at the UTC, students in English are encouraged to nurture their creativity as well as establishing a genuine love of the subject, regardless of any previous barriers. Whilst fully preparing them for exams, we aim to develop students into motivational workers, independent thinkers and articulate communicators.

We offer a rounded curriculum and help students develop a passion for English language and literature. They participate in writing competitions and many students have had poetry and short stories published.

Theatre trips, such as a chance to see Othello at Stafford Castle, bring the subject to life and increase understanding.

MATHS

We aim to enhance the learning attitudes of our students, improving their performance in and enjoyment of Maths. The UTC's ethos allows our passion, commitment and innovation in teaching Mathematics to flourish, and we always strive to utilise our ability to deliver a curriculum that is not just focused on preparation for examinations.

We ensure that all students develop their confidence in, and enjoyment of, Maths whilst enabling them to achieve their maximum potential.

Our innovative teaching style brings the subject to life and we make lessons lively and engaging, taking part in national challenges, activities and problem solving.

SCIENCE

The Science department has four fully equipped, modern and spacious laboratories and one large "super lab" with outstanding lecture, practical and computing facilities for up to 60 pupils. The Science Faculty make lessons stimulating, challenging and relevant to students. Lessons include group work, practical experiments, research tasks and opportunities to develop analytical and problem solving skills.



UTC Extra

Enriching our curriculum offer with exciting opportunities...

At West Midlands UTC we do so much more than just studying for qualifications and offer an extensive enrichment program, including sports: football, badminton, table tennis, basketball, boxing, gym, kick boxing and karate as well as offering chess, Minecraft and film review and other worthwhile activities to engage students. We have sponsorship from Lovell and Redrow for football and basketball teams, and compete in Wolverhampton school competitions.

As part of our UTC Extra offer we facilitate life drawing, portraiture and drawing with a difference, including printmaking, textiles and sculpture work. Our students have opportunities to work alongside university students with lecturers in workshops at the school of art and design.

In addition, we offer Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Adventure Training. This is a Ministry of Defence sponsored youth movement that instils British military ethos as well as encouraging physical fitness, moral courage, and self-discipline. We have field-days and overnight exercises. We take advantage of the generous Adventure Training packages offered by the military.

West Midlands UTC also offers the chance to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and the Duke of York Award.

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